

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Steelers end Patriots' 21-game winning streak**

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Patriots coach Bill Belichick



**AFN coverage of Election Day results**

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**Rock group tries to grow up**

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2004

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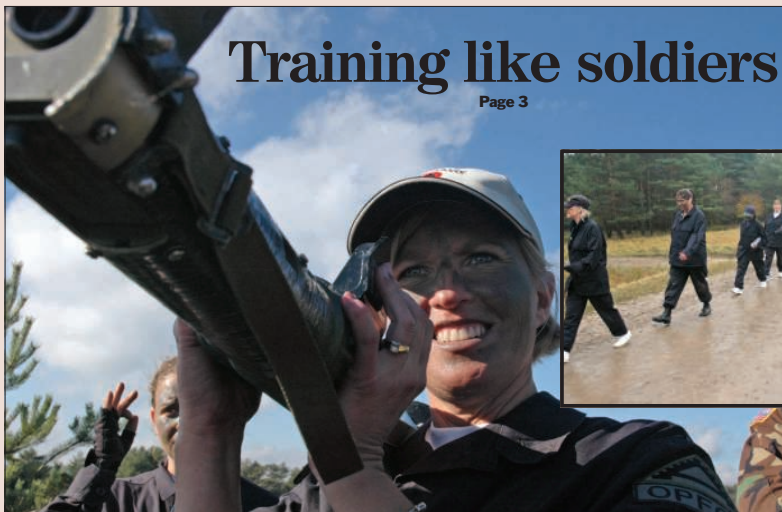
## **ELECTION2004** Frenzied finish

- Bush, Kerry storm battleground states in final push
- Last polls before voting suggest a toss-up
- Parties in full swing to ramp up voter turnout

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### Training like soldiers

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Lt. Col. Toby Green, of the Mustang Observer Controller Team, marches his squad in cadence.

PHOTOS BY ALICE ADLER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Susan Green fires a Viper anti-tank weapon simulator during the Combat Maneuver Training Center's Soldier for a Day program in Hohenfels, Germany. During the event, spouses of soldiers from the training center were given a physical fitness test, went on a road march and fired weapons.

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Prime minister's assassination:** A witness testifying Monday in the trial of the alleged assassins of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic said video surveillance had been switched off at Serbia's government headquarters at the time of the killing.

Djindjic, who spearheaded the 2000 uprising against former President Slobodan Milosevic, was Serbia's first democratic prime minister since World War II. He was shot just outside the building on March 13, 2003, as he headed to his office. Thirteen paramilitary leaders and crime bosses loyal to Milosevic have been indicted in the case. Their trial, which began in December, has been delayed several times due to bureaucracy and is still in the prosecution stage.

**Nigerian oil strike:** Oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell Group opened court action Monday in Nigeria to block a threatened strike targeting oil in the world's No. 7 crude exporter but lost a first-round bid for an interim injunction quelling the unions.

Launch of the case comes as a day after Nigeria's union leaders called the Nov. 16 strike over rising fuel prices here.

Unions promised to target Shell — the top multinational in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country — as an "enemy" of the people for pursuing court action against the strike.

**Madrid bombing suspects:** The Spanish government has ordered most of the suspects jailed over the Madrid terror bombings to be dispersed in prisons around Spain as part of a plan to prevent Islamic radicals from recruiting behind bars, a newspaper said Monday.

El Pais said 14 of the 16 suspects, who are all in prisons in the Madrid area, will be transferred to prisons as far south as Andalusia and to Galicia in Spain's northwest corner. The measure comes in response to Judge Baltasar Garzon's recent warning that Spanish prisons have become breeding grounds for Islamic terrorists willing to commit suicide attacks.

**Milosevic trial:** Judges at the U.N. war crimes tribunal at the Hague restored Slobodan Milosevic's right to act as his own defense lawyer Monday, but they said he must accept a standby in case he becomes ill.

The ruling by the five-judge panel reverses a decision by trial judges to impose a court-appointed lawyer on the former Yugoslav president, saying that "when he is physically capable of doing so, Milosevic will take the lead in his case." But the ruling said an appointed lawyer must remain on standby in case Milosevic's "health

Milosevic



**Iran's nuclear program:** Iranian students form a human chain around the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization's headquarters in Tehran Monday to defend Iran's right to possess nuclear technology. The U.N. nuclear chief on Monday urged Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, and called on North Korea to dismantle its own weapons program. The events come a day after Iranian lawmakers unanimously approved the outline of a bill that would force the government to resume uranium enrichment.

problems resurface with sufficient gravity."

**Anglican church rift:** Widening the growing global Anglican rift over homosexuality, Anglican bishops in Nigeria said Monday they would stop theological training of African clergy in Western institutions.

Bishops also were studying creation of a separate, "African" theology rejecting gay clergy and same-sex marriages, they said.

The African Anglican leaders, ending a six-day meeting, stopped short of calling for an outright split in the Anglican church as some had feared. Africa accounts for about half of the world's 76.5 million Anglicans — and Nigeria's 17.5 million Anglicans are the biggest congregation outside England, where the church has its origins.

## Business

**Crude-oil prices:** The price of oil vaulted above the \$52-a-barrel mark Monday on news that a strike in Nigeria could affect output in the world's seventh-largest crude exporter, while traders looked for signs of how this week's U.S. presidential election would affect the market.

At mid-afternoon Monday in Europe, December crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange was trading electronically at \$52.31 a barrel — up 55 cents from its Friday closing. Prices jumped Friday after falling two days in a row.

## States

**Scott Peterson trial:** After hearing 174 witnesses for the prosecution and 14 for the defense, jurors in Redwood City, Calif., may be deliberating the fate of Scott Peterson by

midweek.

Closing arguments were set to begin Monday, with prosecutors telling jurors why they believe Peterson should be convicted of two counts of murder in the deaths of his pregnant wife, Laci, and the fetus she was carrying.

The prosecution argument was to be followed by the defense and then a prosecution rebuttal. Prosecutors claim Peterson killed his wife on or around

Christmas Eve 2002, then dumped the weighted body into San Francisco Bay. The remains of Laci Peterson and her fetus were discovered along a rocky shoreline about four months later, a few miles from where Scott Peterson claims to have gone fishing alone the day his wife vanished.

**Priest abuse charges:** A lawyer has compiled a list of 2,600 Roman Catholic priests nationwide who have been accused of sexual misconduct against children and plans to post it online by early next year.

Sylvia Demarest, a Dallas lawyer, and her staff spent 11 years on the list, which a victims' rights advocate says may encourage those who were abused to come forward.

Demarest said the database of alleged "priest perpetrators" and other Catholic officials who have been accused of sexually abusing children was assembled from public sources, such as court filings and media reports.

Stories and photos from wire reports



Peterson

## Note to readers

Saturday's Stars and Stripes did not reach the United Kingdom on time due to transportation problems. It will be delivered to subscribers with Tuesday's issue. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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horoscope every day  
in Stars and Stripes



Melissa Matalana throws a grenade during the Combat Maneuver Training Center's Soldier for a Day program in Hohenfels, Germany.

PHOTOS BY ALICE ADLER/U.S. Army

# Trading sneakers for combat boots

## Military spouses participate in Soldier for a Day

BY RICK EMERT  
Stars and Stripes

Nearly 100 military spouses got the chance to walk in the combat boots of their soldier husbands Saturday at Hohenfels.

With the Soldier for a Day event, 95 spouses spent the day learning — and doing — some of the things their soldier husbands do day in and day out.

The day's events included physical training, an obstacle course, a lunch of Meals, Ready to Eat and a military police K-9 demonstration. The spouses were issued — on a temporary basis — sets of black battle dress uniforms used by the Combat Maneuver Training Center's opposing forces.

The event began with 7:30 a.m. physical training, where the would-be soldiers did push-ups, sit-ups and a dozen other exercises.

"My arms were a little sore on Sunday from the PT," said Sabrina Cornett, adding that she has been going to the gym every morning since her husband, Staff Sgt. Steven Cornett of Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, deployed to Afghanistan in September. "I think that helped me, but I was still a little sore."

The obstacle course was built by the Directorate of Public Works specifically for the event, according to Susan Green, the event organizer.

"It will remain there for other events like this to be held in the future," Green said.

The obstacle course was the most physically and mentally challenging event for the spouses, Green said. The participants



Jerilea Hendrick paints the face of April Delarosa at the start of the Combat Maneuver Training Center's Soldier for a Day program in Hohenfels, Germany.

were paired into two-person teams for the event.

"It really took a lot of teamwork to get through it," Green said. "I was pretty wobbly-wobbly afterward. I was so exhausted after doing the obstacle course."

The spouses had to run through rows of tires, climb a 7-foot wall, cross a set of monkey bars, maneuver across a plank and climb through a tunnel, Green said.

"All of us were cheering each other on for the obstacle course," Cornett said. "It's something that I don't think any of us could have been prepared for. Running after your kids all day is not the same as going through an obstacle course — almost, but not quite. It was a great event for us. We had to use teamwork, and there were a bunch of women cheering each other on, instead of fighting with one another."

Sgt. 1st Class Matt Michelson, one of the soldiers overseeing the obstacle course, said the spouses

performed better than he had anticipated.

"They were highly motivated," he said. "We were concerned whether they would be able to complete the course or not, especially climbing the wall."

"Safety was a big concern, because the wall was an event that could potentially lead to injury."

Michelson said several of the wives were able to climb wall without help.

The spouses were treated to a K-9 demonstration in which members of the Combat Maneuver Training Center command group wore the padded "bite suits."

During the MRE lunch, participants learned how to use the meal's heating pouch and got a recipe for Ranger pudding (creamers, sugar, hot cocoa mix and water).

"I didn't care for the pudding, but my husband said when he was downrange, that was all the guys would eat for a while," Green said.

All spouses who participated in the event got certificates and T-shirts adorned with a BDU-clad Betty Boop as well as a set of dog tags imprinted with the words: "I survived Soldier for a Day," Green said.

But, Green said, the real reward for the spouses was getting to experience some of the things they hear their soldier-husbands talking about every day.

"I think this gave us a better understanding of what our soldiers do," Green said. "The demonstrations and the events left me in awe of what emert soldiers do every day."

E-mail Rick Emert at: [emert@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:emert@mail.estripes.osd.mil)



Ann Davis, left, and Lt. Col. Toby Green help Yves Pierce through the obstacle course during the Combat Maneuver Training Center's Soldier for a Day program in Hohenfels, Germany. During the event, spouses of soldiers from the training center were given a physical fitness test, went on a road march and fired weapons.

## Reading, writing, arithmetic and voting

First-graders at Croughton American School at RAF Croughton, England, listen Monday during candidates' speeches at the school. In the spirit of the U.S. presidential election, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders at Croughton American School on RAF Croughton, England, formed political parties and selected candidates for office. Candidates' platforms focused on such issues as adding five minutes to recess; playing videos during lunch hour; and adding more butter on the popcorn at the Community Center movie theater. Elections were to be held Tuesday.

KATHLEEN WHALEN/Courtesy of DODOS



## MOAA scholarships

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Military Officers Association of America officially kicked off its 2005 "Base/Post Scholarship program" Nov. 1, offering \$1,000 scholarships to 50 dependent children of active-duty personal worldwide.

Eligible students must be under age 24, working on a first undergraduate degree and must be a dependent child of active duty, retired, National Guard or Reserve personnel, former commissioned officers and warrant officers of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and the National Aeronautics and Atmospheric Administration.

The scholarships will be awarded randomly; no GPA, SAT or essays are needed and parents do not need to be MOAA members.

Dependents have to apply online at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Click on "Educational Aid" on left side of the opening page.

Deadline for submission is March 1, 2005, at noon, Eastern Standard time.

Scholarship recipients will be notified in May.

From staff reports

## U.S. war crimes court to try first Gitmo cases

BY CAROL ROSENBERG

Knight Ridder Newspapers

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — If America is at war, did it start on Sept. 11, 2001, or when U.S. forces invaded Afghanistan? Did it end when U.S. troops toppled the Taliban? Did President Bush have the power to create a whole new military justice system without permission from Congress? Is terrorism a war crime?

These are among the questions that lawyers will debate this week and next before the Pentagon's Military Commission, the first exclusively U.S. war crimes court since World War II.

Now whittled down to a panel of three officers from a pool of five officers and an alternate, the U.S. military colonels will hear lawyers' arguments on behalf of David Hicks, 29, of Australia and Salim Hamdan, 34, of Yemen.

They are the first two men facing trial on conspiracy charges as alleged members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida movement.

Defense lawyers for the two men have filed hundreds of pages

of motions that challenge everything from whether the court itself is legitimate to whether mere membership in al-Qaida constitutes a war crime.

"This is where the defense is challenging every aspect of the commission," Navy lawyer Lt. Susan McGarvey said Sunday, speaking for the Pentagon on the trials. "This is the very heart of the legal system — to be able to challenge it."

Prosecutors counter that U.S. history and tradition provides the framework for a new legal system in the 21st century's war on terrorism. And they repeatedly argue in briefs that Bush had the authority to create the war crimes court because, "the United States is engaged in a war against the international terrorist group known as al Qaeda."

The defense attorneys, like their prosecution counterparts, are U.S. military lawyers assigned by the Pentagon. Not only do they dispute U.S. allegations that Hicks and Hamdan were members of al-Qaida, but they are using briefs this week to try to dismantle the court itself.

# NATO training Iraqi officers at Norway base

BY DOUG MELLGREN

The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — The first group of Iraqi officers to begin security training under the auspices of NATO started their work Monday at the alliance's elite training center in western Norway.

The eight-day course is part of an effort by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to train security officers for Iraq, with plans for an eventual military academy near Baghdad.

The 20 officers training at NATO's Joint Warfare Center in the western Norway port city of Stavanger were selected by Iraqi authorities as key leaders, the alliance said in a statement.

"Our NATO facility is well placed to offer our Iraqi guests training that will be extremely relevant to the challenges and opportunities they face in rebuilding their country's security institutions," said the center director, British Army Maj. Gen. James Short.

The center specializes in training for joint operations at the headquarters level. NATO said the first group of Iraqi trainees represented a pilot project for possible follow-up training at the center and in Iraq. The ultimate aim is to help Iraq develop its own training capability, it said.

The Iraqis, who were maintaining a low profile for security rea-

sons, include senior military staff and civilian employees with the country's defense and interior ministries.

The course will stress the functions of an operational headquarters, and includes instruction on crisis management, command and control of forces, and operational planning.

It also covers cooperation between the military and civilian institutions such as the United Nations and the Red Cross.

Alliance military experts are also working on plans for NATO to expand its training mission inside Iraq, which is currently limited to about 70 people in Baghdad.

Last week, U.S. Gen. James L. Jones said the Iraqi military academy, which NATO plans to set up outside Baghdad, should be able to train about 1,000 officers a year.

Jones, the alliance's top commander in Europe, didn't say when it would be set up, but said at least 16 of the 26 NATO members had "indicated willingness to contribute troops inside Iraq" for the training mission.

The new NATO course outside Iraq for the nation's security personnel will be at the NATO School in Germany later this month.

Thousands of Iraqis have received police training in Jordan, part of a program announced by country to train 32,000 police by 2005 at the Jordan International Police Training Center.

# U.S. troops step in after Afghan army, police gunbattle

BY NOOR KHAN

The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Afghanistans army and police fought a gunbattle in southern Afghanistan on Monday, leaving several casualties and prompting U.S. forces to step in to restore order, police and witnesses said.

The 90-minute battle started after Afghan National Army troops dismissed police at a checkpoint and a bazaar in Qalat, the capital of Zabul province, said deputy police chief, Jalil Khan.

He said the army had no authority to disarm the police.

The fighting subsided after U.S. forces arrived and took over security.

He said there were some casualties, but he didn't know how many.

A shopkeeper who was reached by telephone from Kandahar said on condition of ano-

## U.S. patrol fired upon; 1 GI dead, 2 wounded

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants attacked U.S. troops patrolling in southeastern Afghanistan on Monday, killing one American soldier and injuring two more with gunfire and rockets, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The patrol came under fire Monday afternoon near Orgun, a town in Pakitika province where U.S. troops man a base close to the Pakistani border, spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said.

The two injured soldiers were rushed to a medical facility at another base in neighboring Khost province, where they were in stable condition, McCann said.

nymity that he saw at least three dead bodies.

American helicopters were still circling above the city.

U.S. military spokesman confirmed there had been an incident in Qalat, but gave no details.

Afghan army officials were not immediately available to comment.

Zabul is one of the most insecure provinces in the lawless reaches of southern and eastern Afghanistan, and has also been

"The patrol received small arms fire and RPG fire," McCann said.

"Unfortunately, one U.S. soldier was killed and two wounded."

None of the soldiers was identified.

The death brought to at least 109 the number of U.S. servicemen killed in and around Afghanistan since the launch of Operation Enduring Freedom after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in America.

A total of 58 were killed in action, according to a tally on the Web site of the U.S. Department of Defense, while the rest died in accidents.

scene of heavy fighting in the past year between coalition forces and Taliban rebels.

The United States is helping to train the new national army, which is meant to gradually replace militia security forces usu-

ally loyal to the local commanders.

Afghan army soldiers also opened fire on some provincial militiamen in the area of the Durai bazaar in Kandahar city on Monday morning, killing two of them and injuring one, said Khalid Pashtun, spokesman for the Kandahar governor.

He said the circumstances of that clash weren't clear and an investigation was underway.

Also, an ammunition depot at a compound used by Afghan army and U.S. special forces in the city exploded late Sunday, wounding three Afghan soldiers, Pashtun said.

It wasn't clear what caused the blast. No U.S. personnel were reported hurt.

Before the fall of the Taliban regime in late 2001, the compound was used by the hardline regime's leader, Mullah Omar.



# New troops arrive to reinforce Fallujah strike

## Baghdad province deputy governor killed by gunmen

BY JIM FREED

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. forces are gearing up for a major offensive against Fallujah, the strongest bastion of Sunni insurgents. The order to launch what would likely be a bloody assault must come from Prime Minister Ayad Alawi, who warned Sunday that his patience with negotiations was thinning.

American and Iraqi officials hope to curb the insurgency in time for national elections by the end of January.

West of the capital, U.S. troops clashed with Sunni insurgents, and American artillery pounded suspected insurgent positions in Fallujah, witnesses said.

A handful of Iraqis showed up for the first day of voter registration in central Baghdad on Monday. They refused to allow TV cameras to film them for fear of future retaliation.

To help protect the voting, fresh American soldiers arrived in the capital Monday — reinforcements that push the total U.S. military presence in Iraq to around 142,000, the highest level since the summer of 2003.

Also Monday, gunmen opened fire on a car carrying Baghdad province's deputy governor, Hatim Kamil, to work Monday morning, killing Kamil, said Baghdad Governor Ali al-Haidari. Two of Kamil's bodyguards were wounded, Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said.

A known militant group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, claimed responsibility for the attack in southeastern Baghdad.

"This is the fate of whoever is aiding or supporting the crusaders against the Muslims and mujahideen," the group said on its Web site. It was impossible to verify the claim's authenticity.

Insurgents have killed dozens of Iraqi politicians and government workers in recent months in a bid to destabilize the country's reconstruction.

The group also said it was behind the assassination of the deputy



U.S. Marines of the 1st Division gather for a morning briefing outside Fallujah on Monday. American forces are preparing for a major assault on Fallujah in an effort to restore control to a swath of Sunni Muslim towns north and west of the capital ahead of crucial national elections due by Jan. 31.

town governor of Diyala province on Friday in the central Iraqi city of Baquba. Aqil Hamid al-Adili, the assistant to the governor for projects affairs, was killed by unidentified gunmen as he was sitting in a friend's office.

Allawi's speech Sunday seemed aimed at preparing the Iraqi public for an onslaught in Fallujah, Allawi warned of civilian casualties, saying that if he orders an assault, it would be with a "heavy heart."

"But I owe, owe to the Iraqi people to defend them from the violence and the terrorists and insurgents," he said.

Commanders have estimated that up to 5,000 Islamic militants, Saddam Hussein loyalists and common criminals are holed up in Fallujah.

He did not give a deadline for how long he would give negotia-

tions with Fallujah's city leaders in which he demands the handover of foreign fighters.

In a position that appeared to contrast with Allawi's, the country's interim president said a military assault was the wrong solution, according to an interview published Monday.

President Ghazi al-Yawer, a Sunni Muslim, told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Qabas that dialogue must continue and that insurgents "want nothing but a military solution, and the continuation of bleeding among Iraqis."

Meanwhile, heavy clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents continued Monday in Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold 70 miles west of Baghdad.

A bomb in Ramadi on Sunday killed one Marine and wounded four others, the military said. The blast brought to nine the number

of Marines killed in the area over the weekend. At least 1,121 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an AP count.

In Monday's fighting in Ramadi, one woman was killed and her two children injured, hospital officials said.

Also killed was an Iraqi freelance television cameraman, Diaa Najm, who provided material to Associated Press Television News — believed to be the 24 journalist killed in Iraq this year.

On Monday, the British army's new base south of Baghdad was rocked for the fourth-straight day as Black Watch troops prepared to begin patrolling their new area of operation, British pool reports said.

Seven rockets landed in the space of an hour yesterday morn-

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,120 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 848 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department as of Friday.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is thirteen higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 68 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 982 U.S. military members have died, according to A.P.'s count.

That includes at least 739 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

ing in the perimeter of Camp Dogwood, 30 miles southwest of Baghdad. British forces were brought to central Iraq to relieve U.S. troops expected to take part in a major assault west of Baghdad.

Baghdad's Camp Victory North, the sprawling headquarters of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, was brimming to capacity with the arrival of the 3,700-member Louisiana-based 25th Enhanced Separate Brigade, a National Guard unit that has been rolling into the Iraqi capital over the past few days.

The 1st Cavalry's 2nd Brigade had been scheduled to return to Fort Hood, Texas, in November, but its departure was delayed by two months, military officials said.

The newly arriving troops leave Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry, in charge of eight Army brigades — or more than 32,000 soldiers.

# American and five others kidnapped from Baghdad office

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An American, a Nepalese and four Iraqi guards were kidnapped Monday when gunmen stormed their office in Baghdad, sparking a gunfight that killed an attacker and a guard, officials said.

The U.S. Embassy confirmed that an American had been abducted in the shooting, which occurred about 5:30 p.m. in the upscale Mansour district of western

Baghdad, but did not identify him. One Iraqi guard and one of the attackers were killed, police said.

Police Lt. Col. Maan Khalaf said the attackers arrived in three cars around iftar, the traditional sunset meal which breaks the day-long Muslim fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

The kidnappers stormed the two-story house, surrounded by an outer wall with iron bars, and forced the victims to leave with them.

"We heard gunfire. I went outside to see what's going on when a man pointed a machine gun at me and said: 'Get in or else, I'll shoot at you,'" said Haider Karar, who lives in the neighborhood.

From his house he saw "at least 20 attackers, some masked and some not." He said some were wearing traditional Arab robes and all were carrying automatic weapons.

Twelve Americans have been kidnapped or are missing in Iraq.

At least three of them have been killed — all beheaded in abductions claimed by an al-Qaida-linked group led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In September, militants kidnapped two Americans and a Briton from their home in Mansour, about 500 yards from the office stormed on Monday. All three were later beheaded.

More than 160 foreigners have been abducted this year by mili-

itants with political demands or by criminals seeking ransom. At least 33 captives have been killed.

The abduction came two days after authorities found the decapitated body of another hostage, 24-year-old Japanese backpacker Shoshei Koda. Al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq group said it had kidnapped Koda and demanded a withdrawal of Japanese troops from the country.

Koda's body was found Saturday, wrapped in an American flag and dumped on a Baghdad street.

# Add it up: Army counts containers in Kuwait

Service looks to save money on rented trailers, which carry almost everything GIs need

By STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — The featureless semi-trailer-size cargo containers are so common at camps in Kuwait and Iraq that few troops think about them. But they carry literally everything a soldier needs to fight a war, from food and ammo to clothes and spare parts.

"When you drive around, you see mountains of containers," said Lt. Col. Marco Rosario, operations officer for the 143rd Transportation Command, a Florida-based Army Reserve unit now serving in Kuwait. "Now is the time to clean things up."

In October, Rosario dispatched 14 teams totaling 90 people — 55 soldiers and 35 civilians — across Kuwait to count every container in every camp. Later, they will fan out to cover Qatar and Bahrain and, eventually, Afghanistan and Iraq. The team members open every container, verify the contents, record it and mark it with a gold tag.

It's part of a biennial Army survey of its massive store of cargo containers. The last one, in 2001 (last year's was delayed because of the Iraq war), listed 29,000 large containers on the Army's worldwide inventory.

Since then, though, the service has bought or rented thousands more to haul cargo to the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters. Sandy Gorba, the manager of Army containers worldwide, said she expects this year's inventory to top 100,000.

There are two good reasons to account for every container.

First, there's money at stake.



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

**Staff Sgt. Alan Moore, 41, of the Fort Bliss, Texas-based 1836th Transportation Company, affixes a gold tag to a cargo container at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The tag signifies that the semi-trailer-sized container has been counted and inventoried. Moore is a member of one of 14 teams from the 143rd Transportation Command counting all the Army's containers in the Middle East theater.**

The Army leased many of the containers, promising to return them by a certain date. Similar to what happens when a rented DVD is returned late, the Army must pay a late fee of as much as \$20 a day if they are not returned.

It doesn't take long for the bill to add up. Brig. Gen. William

Johnson, commander of the 143rd TRANSCOM, said about 1,000 of the 17,457 containers counted in Kuwait are overdue rentals. Returning them will save the Army about \$6 million a year.

Second, it's important to get goods back to their rightful owners. The Kuwait survey turned up

about three dozen containers lost by Army units that have passed through the theater.

Lt. Col. Michael Verrett, container manager for the Kuwait-based Coalition Forces Land Component Command, said one such container held parts for a multiple rocket-launch system.

Another contained empty ammunition boxes valued at \$250,000.

"We'll call [the unit] and tell them about it. And they'll say 'You found it,'" Rosario said.

Other boxes contain more mundane supplies such as Meals, Ready to Eat or truck parts. They are stored in a big patch of desert sand at Camp Arifjan, the largest camp in Kuwait.

"We can find whatever was in these boxes and get it back into the [supply] system," Johnson said.

By Department of Defense regulation, every container shipped to the Middle East must have an electronic ID tag that is scanned every time it enters or leaves a storage yard.

The tag helps keep track of cargo, but it's not foolproof. Some containers have been destroyed because of insurgent attacks on convoys. Some were simply mislaid in the confusion of the rapid advance on Baghdad during last year's invasion.

"You can have equipment, even personnel, that in the fog of war [gets lost]," Verrett said. "We had a lot of trucks out there ... the battlefield is fluid."

The bin counters hope to change what happened after the Persian Gulf War, when the Army spent a year in the desert sorting and returning some 20,000 leftover containers.

"[This time] we're doing it while the war is still going on," Johnson said. "We didn't wait till the end."

E-mail: Steve Liewer at: [liewers@mail.strips.esd.mil](mailto:liewers@mail.strips.esd.mil)

## U.S. has spent fraction of Iraq rebuilding funds, report says

By JONATHAN WEISMAN  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — After more than a year of difficulties, the pace of contracting for Iraqi reconstruction projects picked up substantially over the past three months, but U.S. authorities have still spent only a fraction of the rebuilding money allocated by Congress, according to a new report.

The inspector general monitoring Iraq's rebuilding also said in his latest quarterly report released Monday that reconstruction aid promised by international lenders and other countries has only trickled into Iraq. Of the \$13.5 billion pledged at a donors conference last year in Madrid, contributions and firm commitments total \$2.7 billion, the report said.

Inspector General Stuart M. Bowen paints a picture of lawlessness and corruption hampering a reconstruction program that once promised Iraqis a significant boost from their pre-war standards of living.

Allegations have surfaced of large-scale embezzlement, robberies perpetrated by Iraqi police, even payoffs to U.S. military

personnel who aided in theft.

"Iraq is largely a cash-based economy, and daily life there remains volatile and hazardous," Bowen wrote.

Of the \$24.1 billion that Congress has allocated for Iraq's reconstruction over the past two years, \$13.4 billion has now been obligated to rebuilding contracts, the report said. Three months ago, 30.6 percent of the reconstruction funds had been earmarked for specific projects. Now, that total has risen to 40.7 percent, the report said.

But only about \$5.2 billion has been spent. In the quarterly report released three months ago, about \$3 billion had been spent. Congress' high-profile allocation of \$18.4 billion, approved in October 2003, is still largely untapped. About \$1.6 billion of that has been spent, up from \$400 million three months ago, according to the

inspector general's office.

Other reconstruction projects have come out of various smaller accounts or have been financed with Iraqi oil money.

"Demanding and frequently dangerous conditions ... have challenged the pace of reconstruction," Bowen wrote in an opening message for the report.

The inspector general has managed or coordinated 113 criminal investigations, and opened cases on 272 reports of fraud, waste or other problems reported on the agency's hot line.

In one case, Iraqi construction companies were accused of stealing construction equipment from the Iraqi interim government. U.S. military personnel allegedly helped transport the materials and accepted payment for the assistance. Some of the equipment has been recovered, but the case remains under investigation by the

military and the Iraqi government.

In another case, an Iraqi government official was suspected of embezzling \$300,000 of funds allocated to help local governance, and possibly funneling some of that to insurgents. The investigation found that the official had actually spent only \$70,000 on legitimate projects. He returned the other \$430,000.

A U.S. contractor also reported an alleged theft by Iraqi police officers, who threatened one of the company's Iraqi employees. The investigation led to the arrest of five Iraqis — including two police officers — who were charged with robbery.

The inspector general's investigations have been hampered by confusion, since the U.S. occupation government was disbanded June 28, the report said. Since the inspector general's office was established to keep an eye on the Coalition Provisional Authority, it was unclear whether it would continue to exist. The audit staff has declined by 42 percent since then, Bowen said.

Last month, Congress extended the inspector general's mandate until 10 months after 80 percent of Iraqi reconstruction funds are obligated to contracts.

*Inspector General  
Stuart M. Bowen paints a  
picture of lawlessness and  
corruption hampering a  
reconstruction program  
that once promised  
Iraqis a significant boost  
from their pre-war  
standards of living.*



Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

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## IN THE WORLD



Hostages Annetta Flanagan of Northern Ireland, left, Filipino diplomat Angetilo Nayan, center, and Shqipe Habibi of Kosovo, right, are seen in this video released by their militant captors on Sunday.

## Afghan militants willing to talk with U.N. envoy

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A militant group threatening to kill three foreign hostages said Monday it was ready to negotiate with a United Nations envoy, but warned that any rescue attempt would end in bloodshed and stuck to a demand that the world body withdraw from Afghanistan and that America release Guantanamo prisoners.

A day after the U.N. election workers appeared pleading for freedom in an Iraq-style video, the Taliban splinter group said the three had been split up and are being held at separate locations.

"That's our strategy," Ishaq Manzoor, a spokesman for the group, said in a satellite telephone call.

"If the government and coalition forces find one of them, we will kill the other two."

Unidentified armed men abducted Annetta Flanagan of Northern Ireland, Filipino diplomat Angetilo Nayan and Shqipe Habibi of Kosovo from a U.N. vehicle at gunpoint in the capital on Thursday.

Government officials say they have had no contact with the kidnappers.

However, the group's leader, Akbar Agha, said Monday that an Afghan businessman had offered to act as a go-between.

"One Afghan trader has approached us on behalf of the United Nations and we have nominated a two-member team for talks with him," Agha said in neighboring Pakistan in a separate call.

"We have proposed that the meeting should be held in Jalalabad tomorrow."

U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva declined to comment on whether any contact had been made.

Manzoor suggested that the group, called Jaish-ul-Muslimeen, or Army of Muslims, would wait until Friday before killing any hostages. The group also insists that Britain withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

But Agha said their demands, which also include the pullout of British forces, had to be met by noon on Wednesday.

"They have until 12 o'clock on Wednesday to fulfill our demands. We want the United Nations to stop interfering in Afghanistan," Agha said.

In the video, the hostages are shown sitting hunched together against the bare wall of a room in an undisclosed location. Both women are crying, but all three look unharmed. The three were in Afghanistan to help manage the Oct. 9 presidential election.

Hamid Karzai, Afghanistan's interim leader, released a statement saying he spoke with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Sunday and that they "strongly condemned the hostage situation."

"This war is against the Afghan nation and we know who will win," Karzai said.

The United Nations expressed relief that the hostages appeared unharmed and appealed for their immediate release. It has said there are no plans to pull staff out of the country, though its foreign workers have been ordered to avoid shops and restaurants and keep a 9 p.m. curfew.

Associated Press writers Amir Shah in Kabul and Noor Khan in Kandahar, and Paul Haver in Islamabad, Pakistan contributed to this report.

## Close presidential vote in Ukraine forces runoff

BY JIM HEINTZ

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and his main, reformist challenger in Ukraine's presidential election were less than a percentage point apart with nearly all the votes counted, forcing a runoff, the Central Election Commission said Monday.

With 94.4 percent of the precincts counted, Yanukovich had 40.12 percent and challenger Viktor Yushchenko had 39.15 percent, the commission said.

The commission described the tally as unofficial preliminary results and did not say when a total vote count would be announced.

To win in the first round, a candidate would have needed more than 50 percent of the vote. A runoff will be held Nov. 21.

Going into a runoff will extend tension that already had gripped Ukraine for weeks ahead of the vote. Yushchenko's supporters have alleged widespread official intimidation and interference and his opponents claimed he was aiming to foment civil unrest to try to overthrow the authorities.

Both sides alleged voting-day electoral violations and Yushchenko's allies announced they intend to file more than 70 complaints to the Central Election Commission.

A 600-strong group of foreign militants representing various organizations said the vote did not meet democratic standards.

In its preliminary report, the group, which includes the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, cited state media bias in favor of Yanukovich and state interference, including obstruction of opposition activities.

"Ukraine now has three weeks to show that it is willing to organize democratic elections in accordance with its commitments," said Council of Europe observer Doros Christodoulides.

Yanukovich has the backing of incumbent President Leonid Kuchma, who has clamped down on opposition.

In all, 24 candidates were on the ballot. Turnout was around 75 percent, the Central Election Commission said.

Mykola Tomenko, a Yushchenko ally, said the opposition would "protect its rights" if Yanukovich won a fraudulent vote and announced possible "rallies, strikes and demonstrations to protect people's rights."

At least 5,000 Yushchenko supporters in downtown Lviv in Ukraine's west protested alleged election fraud, chanting "Enough with thieves" and "Power to clean hands." Some two dozen students erected barricades in front of Lviv's National University, but no police were present and no violence was reported.

"If we have to, we will walk to Kiev to fight for our votes," said Petro Olynyk, a lawmaker who heads Yushchenko's regional campaign.

## U.S. issues terror warning

The Associated Press

HELSINKI, Finland — In a rare warning to Americans living or traveling in the Nordic and Baltic region, United States embassies in Finland and Latvia said they received "threat information" and warned Americans there to be cautious.

The U.S. State Department urged Americans in Nordic and Baltic countries "to be vigilant as to their surroundings, especially in centers of ground-based mass transit, and to report any unusual or suspicious persons, incidents

or circumstances to the nearest police authorities," the embassy's Web site in Helsinki said. The Finnish Security Police said security will be stepped up at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, but that Nordic citizens had nothing to worry about.

U.S. embassies in Denmark, Norway and Sweden did not give similar warnings.

"The information is as specific as we can make it at this time. If we had more specific information for American citizens, we would of course release it," said Victoria Middleton, an embassy spokeswoman in Helsinki.

## Bombing in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, Israel — A 16-year-old Palestinian blew himself up in a crowded outdoor market in central Tel Aviv on Monday, killing three Israelis and wounding 32 in the first such attack since Yasser Arafat left last week for medical treatment in France.

Arafat's absence has raised concern about instability among the Palestinians. Monday's blast signaled that Palestinian militants are seeking to set the pace, not Arafat's aides, who have been trying to convey normalcy.

Israel has said that while the Palestinian leader is away it would show restraint in its battle with militants.

From his sickbed in a military hospital near Paris, Arafat condemned the bombing and "appealed to all Palestinian factions to commit to avoid harming all Israeli civilians, and he appealed to Sharon to take similar initiatives to avoid harming Palestinian civilians," Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rdenneh said.

## 7 killed in China riot

LANGCHENGANG, China — Violent clashes in a village in central China killed seven people and injured 42, the government said Monday, as police imposed martial law on the area after the fighting between hundreds of rioters and a pitiful Muslim Chinese group ended on Muslims.

The unrest began Wednesday after a traffic accident and lasted through Sunday, the government said in its first official report on the violence. Everything "is now under control," it said in the statement, run on the state news agency Xinhua.

Martial law has been imposed on the area in Zhangmu County near the city of Zhengzhou in Henan province, and thousands of police have been sent in to restore order. Fighting people have been arrested, Xinhua said.

From The Associated Press

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# Photos from the Front

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**ABOVE** Staff Sgt. Michael Manaton, 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, congratulates Nazir Ahmad Tase, director of the Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan, on the receipt of wheat seed and fertilizer to be used to help local farmers revitalize their farms.

*CAROLINA K. BILLARD/U.S. ARMY*

**LEFT** Spc. Joshua B. Polley, right, and Pfc. Darren A. Ripley, with the 293rd Military Police Company stationed in Baqouba, Iraq, strum their guitars following a long duty day. Polley is from Wickliffe, Ky., and Ripley is from Princeton, Maine.

*KIMBERLY SHOWN/U.S. ARMY*



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## IN THE STATES

## Rehnquist's health may return to bench

BY GINA HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist disclosed Monday that he's undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for thyroid cancer and said he is delaying his expected return to the Supreme Court.

Rehnquist had planned to join fellow justices when they were back on the bench after a two-week break. But instead he issued a statement saying "at suggestion of my doctors, (I) am continuing to recuperate at home."

Rehnquist was released from a Maryland hospital last Friday after undergoing surgery to have a tube inserted in his throat to help his breathing.

The court has released no details about his weeklong stay at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, except to say he had a tracheotomy. The type of thyroid cancer and its severity have not been disclosed.

Rehnquist, 80, revealed the cancer diagnosis a week ago, prompting speculation about a court vacancy for the first time in more



William H. Rehnquist

than a decade. The winner of Tuesday's presidential election is expected to name one or more justices to a court that is deeply divided on issues like abortion, affirmative action and the death penalty.

Dr. Ann M. Gillewater of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston said that the combination of chemother-

apy and radiation is the normal treatment for anaplastic thyroid cancer, a more serious type.

Rehnquist, a conservative who has been on the court since 1972 and chief justice since 1986, has had other health problems including chronic back pain and a torn leg tendon that required surgery.

In the statement, Rehnquist said he was receiving outpatient radiation and chemotherapy. Cancer of the thyroid, a gland in the neck that produces hormones to help regulate the body's use of energy, is generally treatable but can be more aggressive in older people.

"According to my doctors, my plan to return to the office today was too optimistic," he said. "While at home, I am working on court matters, including opinions for cases already argued. I am, and will, continue to be in close contact with my colleagues, my law clerks, and members of the Supreme Court staff."

In his absence Monday, Justice John Paul Stevens, 84, presided over the court. He said Rehnquist could not vote in cases being argued this week, after reviewing transcripts and briefs.

## Court lets child neglect ruling stand

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court let stand Monday the conviction of a Virginia man in the death of his 21-month-old daughter in a sweltering van.

The court, without comment, denied the appeal of Kevin C. Kelly in the death of Frances Kelly, who was found dead in May 2002 after she was left in the van for seven hours.

In his appeal, Kelly said he could not be held criminally negligent because he had instructed his older children to take their younger siblings out of the van. Kelly argued he never checked on her because he assumed she was sleeping in the house.

But the Virginia Court of Appeals disagreed, stating that there was enough evidence at trial to show Kelly should have done more to look after Frances instead of doing various household chores.

In other business Monday:

■ Assisted suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian lost an appeal in his bid to win freedom after five years in prison.

Justices, without comment, turned back an appeal in which Kevorkian claimed he had an ineffective attorney when he was convicted of second-degree murder in the 1998 poisoning of Thomas York.

■ The court will decide whether local governments can be sued for failing to enforce restraining orders, using the case of a Colorado mother whose three daughters were killed by their father.

Justices will decide if the mother can pursue a \$30 million lawsuit against the city, on grounds that her constitutional due process rights were violated because the city did not enforce the restraining order.

## Nongunpowder guns injure thousands

BY LINDSEY TANNER  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A study has found that air rifles, paintball pistols and BB guns injure as many as 21,000 Americans each year, undermin-

ing the notion that such weapons are harmless in the hands of young people.

Nongunpowder guns kill an average of four Americans yearly, and from 1990 to 2000, there were 39 such deaths — 32 of children younger than 15, according to a report in November's issue of Pediatrics.

The report, published Monday, comes just two weeks after the BB gun death of an 8-year-old South Carolina boy accidentally killed by a 13-year-old friend. The pellet pierced the boy's heart, said Richland County Coroner Gary Watts.

"These are not the kinds of BB guns that I grew up with," Watts said. Today's BB guns "are extremely high-powered," and some can shoot with a velocity nearly matching a .22 caliber rifle, Watts said.

Nongunpowder guns include power-

ful air rifles introduced in the 1970s and paintball pistols used in war games. They're sometimes described as fake guns and often given to children as gifts, but the report says they can cause internal injuries.

Nationally, an estimated 21,840 injuries related to nongunpowder weapons were treated in emergency departments in 2000 — most in children aged 5 to 14, according to the report prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Injury, Violence and Prevention.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show there were 19,163 nongunpowder gun injuries last year.

Most states have laws or regulations governing nongunpowder guns.

New York's is one of the strictest, prohibiting the purchase or unsupervised use by someone younger than 16 years, the Pediatrics report said.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.2089
British pound	\$1.86
Japanese yen (Nov. 3)	103.60
South Korean won (Nov. 2)	109.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Bahamas (Dollar)	\$1.8376
Canada (Dollar)	0.7135
Denmark (Krone)	5.50
Egypt (Pound)	0.2547
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2791
Hungary (Forint)	7.824
Israel (Shekel)	19.81
Italy (Lira)	1,936
Japan (Yen)	103.60
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2946
Norway (Krone)	4.783
Philippines (Peso)	56.30
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.662
South Korea (Won)	111.93
Switzerland (Franc)	1.4907
Thailand (Baht)	48.40
Turkey (Lira)	1,471,000.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance and the South Korean rate is for the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany) check with your local currency exchange facility. Commercial rates are interest rates provided for reference in buying currency. All figures are foreign to one dollar, except the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

London closing	
Gold	\$426.60
Silver	\$7.22

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.7
Discount rate	2.75
3-month Treasury bill	4.875
5-month bill	1.91
30-year Treasury note	6.25

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility  
Money tip of the day

## New cities, new stores

The Associated Press

Vacations aren't just for rest — plenty of us shop up a storm.

In fact, more than half of people in a recent survey (51 percent) said they'd done holiday gift shopping while on vacation, spending an average of \$2,000.

As how much are we retail addicts? It's pretty bad.

Nearly three-quarters said shopping is as important, or even more so, than nightlife when planning a trip. Almost

half leave space in the suitcase for travel beauty, and 17 percent said they buy another suitcase to get the stuff home.

To save money for retailing, more than a fifth (21 percent) said they had booked a cheaper hotel and 19 percent have skipped a meal or gotten cheaper food.

Not surprisingly, New York was named the best shopping city, cited by 41 percent. Las Vegas, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago also were mentioned.

## WHO sets date for flu vaccine summit

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With increasing signs that bird flu is becoming established in Asia and a shortage of flu vaccine in America, health officials from several nations and more than a dozen vaccine companies plan to meet this month for an unprecedented summit to tackle the issue.

Sixteen vaccine companies and health officials from the United States and other large countries already have agreed to attend the summit in Geneva, Switzerland, on Nov. 11.

said Klaus Stohr, influenza chief of the United Nations' health agency, the World Health Organization.

Scientists fear that if the bird flu virus mutates enough to mix with the human influenza virus it could easily pass between humans and trigger a global pandemic.

"We believe that we are closer to the next pandemic than we ever were," Stohr said Sunday in an interview before a speech at an American Society for Microbiology meeting in Washington, D.C.

Stohr said several European countries had been invited to the meeting, but he declined to name them. Vaccine makers in Russia and Japan were also invited.

The world's total capacity for

flu vaccine now is only 300 million doses, and it would take at least six months to develop a new vaccine to fight a pandemic. The WHO wants to get "all issues on the table," monetary and scientific, that prevent getting more vaccine more quickly, he said.

"If we continue as we are now, there will be no vaccine available, let alone antivirals, when the next pandemic starts," Stohr said. "We have a window of opportunity now to prepare ourselves."

Flu kills about 36,000 people in the United States and a million worldwide each year by conserva-

tive estimates, Stohr said. But tens of millions die in a pandemic, which occurs every 20 to 30 years, when a flu strain changes so dramatically that people have little immunity from previous flu bouts.

There were three pandemics in the 20th century, all of which worldwide within a year of being detected.

The worst was the Spanish flu in 1918-19, when as many as 50 million people worldwide were thought to have died, nearly half of them young, healthy adults. More than 500,000 died in the United States.

The 1957-58 Asian flu caused about 70,000 deaths in the United States, followed by the 1968-69 Hong Kong flu, which caused about 34,000 U.S. deaths.

**"We have a window of opportunity now to prepare ourselves."**

Klaus Stohr  
Influenza Chief of the  
World Health Organization



Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry greets supporters at a rally Monday at Orlando International Airport in Orlando, Fla.



President Bush greets and shakes hands with supporters after speaking at campaign rally at ABX Air Hangar on Monday in Wilmington, Ohio.

# Presidential race down to the wire

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — President Bush and Democratic challenger John Kerry raced through a frenzied last day of campaigning Monday, pressing hard for support in Ohio, Wisconsin and other narrowly divided states in a presidential election still too close to call.

Squeezing every dwindling hour for campaigning, Bush laid on a six-state, seven-stop tour stretching from early morning into late night, mostly in the Midwest. Kerry was working the heartland for a final time, too, after a morning stop in Florida, scene of the disputed 2000 vote that gave Bush the presidency.

At an airport rally in Ohio, where more than 200,000 jobs have been lost in the past four years, Bush said, "I know the economy of this state has been through a lot, but we are moving in the right direction."

"We have to keep your taxes low and I want you to remind your friends and neighbors that my opponent will raise the taxes on Ohio's families and Ohio's small businesses," Bush asserted.

Kerry, saying he felt "fabulous," headed for Wis-

consin, a state Al Gore won in 2000 and the Democrats cannot afford to lose this year.

Both sides had get-out-the-vote armies primed for action, plus lawyers deployed across the country ready to throw any photo finish into court at the first sign of polling-place irregularities.

The long, bruising campaign was finally ending, surely not a moment too soon for the combatants. Kerry occasionally coughed during his speech at a Tampa, Fla., rally Sunday night, which in the past has been an early sign of losing his voice.

Bush stocked up on lozenges and cut down or eliminated caffeine, which constricts the vocal cords, said adviser Karl Rove.

Bush was stumping in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Iowa and New Mexico on Monday before a final rally in Dallas.

Kerry was campaigning in Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan on the campaign's last day before returning home to Massachusetts.

Kerry's running mate, Sen. John Edwards, campaigned in Minnesota, saying, "The American dream is on the ballot." Vice President Dick Cheney, appearing in Colorado, said, "If you want my opinion, John Kerry's goose is cooked."

## Polls: Vote too close to call

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Voter turnout is likely to be higher than in recent presidential elections — especially among young voters — in a very close race, weekend polls suggest.

Those polls suggest the race is very close nationally, with some polls showing President Bush and Democratic Sen. John Kerry even and another showing Bush slightly ahead.

Bush has a slight edge at 48 percent and Kerry at 45 percent in a Pew Research poll, while several national polls released this weekend showed the race even.

New polls show Bush and Kerry knotted in key states like

Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota and New Hampshire.

More than eight in 10 registered voters in the Pew poll, 84 percent, describe this election as especially important, compared with 67 percent in 2000 and 61 percent in 1996.

Pew pollster Andrew Kohut said the poll suggests turnout could be as high or slightly higher than in 1992, when it was more than 55 percent of those eligible to vote — based on his analysis of voter enthusiasm.

Bush had more intense support from his backers than Kerry, though both get the backing of about nine in 10 in their own parties.

## TVs, computers give several ways to track election results

Stars and Stripes

The American Forces Network will provide live election night coverage on most of its channels starting Tuesday night.

Different channels will show coverage from different networks. AFN News will also carry live post-election coverage from CNN and Fox News.

Times are listed in Central European time. Viewers in Iraq need to add two hours to the listed times.

**Wednesday, AFN Prime Atlantic**  
12:30 a.m.: CBS Evening News with Dan Rather

1 to 5 a.m.: CBS election coverage. If coverage runs longer than planned, AFN will continue to carry CBS.

5 a.m.: Regular programming or continued CBS election coverage

**Tuesday-Wednesday, AFN News**

10 p.m.: MSNBC news coverage  
12:30 a.m.: NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw

1 a.m.: NBC election coverage

5 a.m.: Once NBC coverage ends, AFN will switch to Fox News

1 p.m.: CNN News

6 p.m.: Fox News

In addition to AFN stations, those who receive CNN International will get all-day coverage starting Tuesday, fed directly from CNN in the United States, a spokeswoman said.

### AFN radio coverage

Election coverage from ABC Radio will be broadcast on Interruptible Voice Channel (IVC) from 2 a.m. until at least 7 a.m. NPR's coverage, available to AFN decoder users, will begin at 2 a.m. and run until the beginning of Morning Edition at 7 a.m.

### Online coverage

For those with access to the Internet, coverage can be found at:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/elec2004/>  
[www.cbsnews.com/sections/home/main100.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/home/main100.shtml)  
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# Candidates counter claims in war on terror

## Cheney invokes Pearl Harbor at late-night rally in Hawaii

By PETE YOST  
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Invoking memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Vice President Dick Cheney told a late-night campaign rally Sunday that rival John Kerry neither understands nor has a plan to win today's war on terror.

In a 3,225-mile detour from the mainland battleground states, the vice president made the most of a visit to traditionally Democratic Hawaii by ripping into Kerry in the final hours of the campaign.

"We are standing just a few miles from Pearl Harbor, the site of a sudden attack... Three years ago, America faced another sudden attack," Cheney told a crowd estimated by his aides at 9,000, the vice president's biggest crowd at a campaign event.

Cheney said that "the clearest, most important difference in this campaign is simple, to state: President Bush understands the war on terror and has a strategy for winning it. John Kerry does not."

Though it seems a huge task for Bush to actually win a state that has been a Democratic stronghold, Cheney's overnight trip is aimed at fueling the perception the president's re-election is assured.

Nationally, however, the latest national polls show the race to be extremely tight. Cheney spoke to a crowd inside the convention center as outside, some 80 people gathered across the street carrying signs in support of Kerry and running mate John Edwards. Several demonstrators inside the convention center briefly interrupted Cheney's remarks, but they were drowned out by audience chants of "four more years."

The vice president's remarks on national security paralleled the base campaign speech he has been giving for months, with the added punch of tying together the sneak attack that began U.S. involvement in World War II with the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The Kerry campaign says the senator



Vice President Dick Cheney waves to the crowd before leaving a Republican rally at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu on Sunday.

has spent the better part of his career working on behalf of the military and that he has been concerned about the consequences of giving the president a blank check in Iraq. "We're seeing the consequences of that in Iraq. It's a tragedy," Kerry campaign spokesman Phil Singer said Sunday. Cheney told the cheering crowd in Honolulu, "Now in the final days of this campaign, John Kerry is running around talking tough. He's trying every which way to cover up his record of weakness on national defense. But he can't do it. It won't work."

The vice president then delivered what he tells crowds is his favorite line: "As we like to say in Wyoming, you can put all the lipstick you want on a pig, but at the end of the day, it'll still be a pig!" The line drew such a roar that Cheney, as he sometimes does, asked if the crowd wanted to hear it again. They did, and he repeated it.

## Kerry says he would move quickly on national security

By MARY DALRYMPLE  
AND NEDRA PICKLER  
The Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Democrat John Kerry says he plans "very strong and real steps" to buttress national security if elected president.

"If the American people make me president Tuesday, they will see a flurry of activity and leadership with respect to our national security interests that they've never seen, but I'm going to wait until I'm there," Kerry said in an interview Sunday with The Associated Press.

With Osama bin Laden still at large and security uncertain in Iraq, Kerry declined to talk about specific plans. "I'm going to make America safer and I have some very strong and real steps to take quite immediately to make that happen," he said in an interview about his campaign plan.

With the outcome of the race still too close to call, the Massachusetts senator talked both in terms of "I I win" and "When I win." He said he's prepared to raise legal challenges if problems arise at the polls, and he said he's tired but confident and eager to end the campaign.

"Sure I'm tired. I've been campaigning for almost two years now," Kerry said. "I know we could make life better for people in America and I'm excited by it."

"I think Americans are going to vote for change," he said.

If Kerry is elected, the country will switch presidents in wartime for the first time since Lyndon Johnson left office after Richard Nixon was elected in 1968.

Kerry said he is not concerned that President Bush is preparing an attack in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, which could be carried out with Bush as a lame duck before Kerry takes office on Jan. 20.

If he wins, Kerry said, he would begin putting his Cabinet together "as fast as I



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry listens to a sermon during Sunday services at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio.

can." Some names being mentioned for his national security team include former United Nations Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden, senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Kerry also said:

■ He supports the Electoral College system for selecting a president, calling it "actually quite genius" for its ability to give smaller states a voice in the election.

■ He would keep the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives created by Bush and predicted he would see more success by drawing a clear line between religious activity and social aid.

■ He has run "a very positive campaign" without negative ads.

Kerry's campaign is running several state-specific spots that assail the president, though.

## Votes on gay marriage could sway some battleground states

By TIM JONES  
Chicago Tribune

Voters in 11 states will decide Tuesday whether to ban gay marriage, and two of those states — the political battlegrounds of Michigan and Ohio — will be watched closely to see if the emotional issue might tilt the outcome of the tight presidential race.

As much as the amendments themselves, the political pull of this issue will be tested.

While legislatures have moved with unusual speed to place constitutional bans on gay marriage before voters, the issue has not overtaken voter concerns about the economy, health care, or war in Iraq and the fight against terrorism.

But political analysts say the proposals could encourage additional turnout from people concerned about the issue and provide the margin of victory in tossup states like Michigan, with 17 electoral votes, and Ohio, with 20. In Missouri, for instance, the first state to approve a constitutional ban on gay marriage this year, almost 1.5 million people cast ballots on the marriage amendment in August, roughly 40,000 more than the total vote in the

state's hotly contested gubernatorial primary election.

Pre-election polls in Missouri showed about 60 percent of voters supported the measure. The proposal passed with a whopping 71 percent. Louisiana voters approved a similar ban in September, with 78 percent.

Interviews with registered voters around the country show morality-based issues — abortion, prayer in school, religion, gay marriage — are prominent concerns, especially among Republicans.

What that means for Election Day, however, is not clear because these issues cross party lines and are not exclusively identified with particular candidates.

"You may see a 3 to 4 percentage point increase in turnout over 2000," John Green, a political scientist at the University of Akron, said of the Ohio ballot measure.

"You have to make a lot of guesses about this," said Green, who studies the relationship of politics and religion. "A lot of these people may not vote for (President) Bush. Some African-Americans will come out for the marriage amendment, but they will vote for (Sen.) John Kerry."

Ed Sarpulius, vice president of

EPIC-MRA, a Michigan-based public research firm, said the gay marriage proposal "may add a percent."

"Will it have an impact? Some. Significant? No," Sarpulius said.

On Tuesday, Oregon, Montana, Utah, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan will decide proposed constitutional amendments that would say marriage is a union between a man and a woman.

Nearly all opinion polls have shown the measures getting support, if not overwhelming support. An Ohio poll from the University of Cincinnati released last week showed 57 percent of voters intend to vote for the measure, while 40 percent signaled their opposition. That represents an 8-percentage-point drop in support from September, the poll said.

The Ohio poll said 73 percent of likely voters who say they will vote for Bush would vote for the ban. Kerry voters are against the amendment, 55 percent to 42 percent, the poll said.

The proposals are likely to have the greatest effect energizing the Christian conservative Republican voting base, Green said. A poll released Thursday by

the National Annenberg Election Survey showed four percent of voters ranked moral values as their most important issue, with the biggest support coming from white born-again Christians and people who attend religious services more than once a week.

Kenneth Warren, a political scientist and pollster at St. Louis University, said primary and general elections are different political exercises. Although more voters cast ballots for the gay marriage proposal than in the gubernatorial race in Missouri, Warren noted people not interested in politics could request individual nonpartisan ballots that did not offer choices in the governor's race. He said a gambling proposal that was also on the ballot drew almost the same number of votes as the marriage amendment.

Warren said the contentious battle for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination — incumbent Bob Holden was ousted by Claire McCaskill, the first time in Missouri history a governor had been removed in a primary — drew voters to the polls in record numbers.

"If you're not motivated to turn out in a presidential race," Warren said, "you're not going to be motivated to turn out for a ballot proposal."



# Two federal judges bar challengers at Ohio polls

## GOP plans appeal on ruling of testing voter eligibility

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Two federal judges on Monday barred parties from posting challengers at polling places throughout Ohio, saying poll workers, not outsiders, should determine voter eligibility.

State Republicans planned to appeal.

An order by U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott of Cincinnati found that the application of Ohio's state law allowing challengers at polling places was unconstitutional.

In a similar case, U.S. District Judge John Adams of Akron said poll workers are the ones to determine if voters are eligible.

"In light of these extraordinary circumstances, and the contentious nature of the imminent election, the court cannot and must not turn a blind eye to the substantial likelihood that significant harm will result not only to voters, but also to the voting process itself, if appointed challengers are permitted at the polls," Adams said.

Dlott said the presence of chal-

lengers inexperienced in the electoral process questioning voters about their eligibility would impede voting.

In comments made before Adams ruled, Mark Weaver, lawyer for the Ohio Republican Party, called Dlott's ruling erroneous and said the party would ask the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati to overturn it.

Dlott ruled on a lawsuit by a black Cincinnati couple who said Republican plans to deploy challengers to largely black precincts in Hamilton County was meant to intimidate and block black voters.

Adams ruled in a suit by the Summit County Democratic Party, which claimed the law allowing registration challenges is unconstitutional because it does not give a disqualified voter a chance to appeal in time to cast a ballot.

Republicans wanted to put challengers in many polling places because of concerns about fraud with hundreds of thousands of newly registered voters in a state President Bush and Sen. John Kerry both say they need to win.

Dlott said in her order that the evidence "does not indicate that the presence of additional challengers would serve Ohio's interest in preventing voter fraud better than would the system of election judges."

The rulings apply to all 88 counties, said Carlo LoFaro, a spokesman for Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell.

If the challengers appointed by political parties, issue campaigns and candidates are barred from polling places Tuesday, the only people under state law who could then issue challenges to would-be voters would be the four election officers at each precinct, two Republican and two Democrat, or another voter.

In a separate case last week, Dlott had temporarily halted election board hearings on challenges. The state GOP had challenged 35,000 registrations because mail to those addresses came back undelivered. Democrats said the GOP was trying to keep poor and minorities, who move more often, from voting, and was targeting new voters registered by political groups supporting Kerry.

## Vote to be monitored for first time

MIAMI — If they can get in the door, election observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will be keeping an outsider's eye on the U.S. voting process Tuesday.

For the first time, machinery created at U.S. government prompting to foster the spread of democratic elections throughout the former Soviet bloc is

being used to assess how freely and fairly America chooses its chief executive.

On Tuesday, at least 15 election monitors from OSCE, an intergovernmental organization founded to help bridge the East-West divide during the Cold War, plan to be on the ground in precincts from coast to coast to observe and deliver an independent evaluation of how America votes.

From The Los Angeles Times



Workers put the finishing touches on the NBC News election studios overlooking the Rockefeller Center skating rink in New York.

# Networks planning to track oddities

By DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Before 2000, the focus of television Election Night coverage was pretty simple: Count votes as fast as you can and explain why people voted the way they did.

Two trends in this year's plans show the residual impact of hanging chads and blown calls. Networks are intent on following potential voter irregularities and laying bare their own decision-making processes as results flood in.

ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, PBS, CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC will all devote prime time to election results Tuesday night. Smaller networks with specialized audiences, like BET and MTV, have unprecedented coverage because of the intense interest in the presidential race.

Chlip Reid will be stationed at the "Morning Your Vote Count" desk at NBC News. ABC's Jake Tapper will deliver "Ballot Watch" reports. Mika Brzezinski at CBS, Major Garrett at Fox

News Channel and Jeffrey Toobin at CNN all have the same assignments: Comb the country for reports of potential fraud or disenfranchised voters.

"We all got a civics lesson in 2000 so what we feel we need is some good intelligence with secretaries of state in every battleground state," said Paul Mason, ABC News senior vice president.

"After the election, the story will be about how broken the election system is," NBC's Tom Brokaw said. Networks also want to rebuild public confidence in their performance after the 2000 disaster. You'll recall them declaring Al Gore the winner in Florida, rescinding it, giving Florida and the presidency to George Bush, then having to wait several weeks before a court fight settled the outcome.

ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and The Associated Press collaborate to construct a new exit polling system from scratch. The AP will also be the sole source for a nationwide vote tabulation.

## Fla. hopes 2004 isn't a repeat of 2000 — but it could happen

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The state that turned the 2000 U.S. presidential election into turmoil with confusing butterfly ballots and hanging chads is conducting elections differently this time around, embarrassed into overhauling everything from its machinery to its recount rules.

But one thing is still the same going into Election Day — it's far from clear who is going to win the state, and the prospect of another recount remains.

The most obvious change that Florida has made since 2000 is its equipment — the infamous punch-card ballots with their hanging and pregnant chads have been replaced by optical scan systems and touch-screen machines.

Most of Florida will use the optical scan systems, which worked pretty well four years ago. Voters fill in an oval or complete an incomplete line on a paper ballot to indicate their choice, and an optical scanner reads their ballot.

Fifteen counties use touch-screen machines, in which voters indicate their selection by touching spaces on a computer screen. There is no paper ballot.

Congress also required states to offer provisional ballots, which allow people to vote even if they're told they're not on a precinct's voter lists. Elections officials will later verify if the ballots are legal and count them if they are.

If the initial returns indicate the margin of victory in a particular race is one-half of 1 percent or less, local elections officials must order a machine recount, unless the losing candidate declines.

In the 52 counties that use optical scan voting machines, a machine recount is done by simply running the paper ballots back through the scanners.

In the 15 counties with touch-screen machines, officials will have to compare precinct-level results with the county returns. If there is a discrepancy, the precinct-level counts are presumed to be correct.

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## OPINION

## Touchscreens without paper trail isn't a fix

BY AVI RUBIN

About 50 million Americans will cast their ballots for president on touch-screen terminals Tuesday.

If my experience as an election judge is any guide, voters will love these machines, which are generally easy to use and which easily accommodate voters who have disabilities or do not speak English.

And if my experience as a computer scientist is any guide, those voters will not realize just how dangerous it is to rely on these machines to conduct a free and fair election with a reliable result.

Voting on a direct recording electronic voting machine, or DRE, is in many ways similar to transferring money from one account to another at an automated teller machine. But there is one critical information difference: no receipt. There will be no physical record produced that could later be used by your local election board to prove how you intended to vote.

After you cast your ballot on a DRE, the only official record of your choices will be the electronic record within the system itself.

You will not be asked to look at a piece of paper that confirms your candidate selections. You will not leave that piece of paper behind for use in case of a recount.

Why is this a problem? Without paper ballots that can be physically examined, the only record possible is a review of the votes recorded by the DRE system itself. And if those votes were recorded incorrectly, no recount will fix the error. The incorrect result could never be detected, much less corrected.

And incorrect results are entirely possible. Largely because of Florida's problems in 2000, there has been a headlong rush nationwide to adopt DRE voting. Touch screens will be used in this election despite numerous studies, by my colleagues and me and by others, showing that the machines from the leading manufacturer, Diebold Election Systems, are poorly designed, with lax security and programming errors.

Nationwide, about one-third of all ballots will be cast electronically.

Technical glitches and malfunctioning machines — the kinds of problems that occur with any computer system — could result in the loss of votes in uncorrectable ways. Worse, these fully electronic machines could be rigged — undetectably, because of the complexity of the software that runs them.

While we can never eliminate the possibility of tampering with elections, the impact of an attack

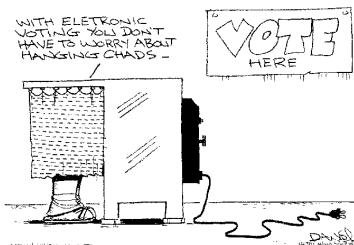
on a DRE system would likely be more serious than the results of tampering with traditional mechanical voting machines or paper-based systems, such as optically scanned ballots. This is because a bug in the software of an electronic voting system, whether accidental or intentional, has the potential to skew results in more than an isolated polling place or two. It could affect the vote totals on many thousands of machines in hundreds of precincts.

Elections, by their nature, are adversarial. In a successful election, the loser should be as convinced as the winner that the outcome is legitimate.

One of our safeguards in the United States is that members of the two principal parties are present to watch each other during every facet of an election. The utility of this security measure is diminished when the votes are invisible and the counting is virtual.

DREs reduce the transparency of the voting process, and traditional checks and balances become ineffective.

Even if, on Wednesday, this election appears to have been a success, there will be no way of knowing for sure whether the will of the people was accomplished.



And even if there is no problem Tuesday, that does not imply that the election was secure — only that no one chose that day to exploit the insecurity. If an apparent success in November leads to greater adoption of fully electronic voting in the future, then subsequent elections will be even more vulnerable.

For voters to have confidence in the election process, it should be as transparent as possible. When technology that is inherently opaque is used in elections, peoples' confidence in the process will be justifiably shaken.

There are ways in which DREs provide an apparent advantage over butterfly ballots and hanging chads. But there are other ways in which these systems, implemented without voter-approved paper ballots that allow meaningful recounts, are potentially much worse.

Our goal should be voting technology that is beyond reproach. That goal may never be fully attainable, but we must do better than this.

Avi Rubin is a professor of computer science at the Johns Hopkins University. This column first appeared in The (Baltimore) Sun.

## Reinstitution of the draft is not even on the table

BY DONALD RUMSFELD

The peculiar thing about myths is that even the most far-fetched can be nearly impossible to extinguish. This is especially so when there is a vested interest in some quarters in keeping them alive.

Like many Americans, I have recently heard a great deal of misinformation talk about a so-called "secret plan" to bring back the draft. The plot is so secret that it doesn't exist. Neither our commander in chief nor the secretary of defense know anything about it. That's because it simply is not true.

Let me be even more emphatic on that point. To my knowledge, no one I have served as secretary of defense, the idea of re-instituting the draft has never been debated, endorsed, discussed, theorized, pondered or even whispered by anyone in the Bush administration. When asked about it, the president has flatly rejected the idea. Similarly, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has said a draft is not needed or desirable. And the U.S. House of Representatives voted down a bill, offered by several Democratic congressmen, to reinstate the draft by a resounding 402-2 less than a month ago.

Yet, based on absolutely no actual evidence, partisans, conspiracy-mongers and troublemakers are attempting to scare and mislead young Americans by insisting that a draft is coming. This is mischief-making masquerading as a serious policy debate. It is shameful.

This entire deceit is underhanded and just plain wrong. Unfortunately, regrettably, incessantly, thanks to the available transmission belt in the media, it seems to be work-

ing. One recent opinion poll suggests that about half of America's young people surveyed believe that the President Bush favors reinstating the draft.

I take this issue seriously and personally. As a member of Congress in the 1960s, I was one of the first to support an all-volunteer force. I know the inequities and the problems — for both our society and our military — associated with compelling people to serve against their will in the armed forces. Quite beyond the draft's inequities and inefficiencies, the United States simply does not need a draft. America has about 295 million people and some 2.6 million serving in the active and reserve components of our military. We don't need compulsion to attract and retain the people we need to serve our country.

As it stands today, the active Army and Marine Corps continue to exceed their recruiting goals despite the high pace of activity. Retention is also doing well. Particularly striking are re-enlistment rates for units that

have deployed overseas. Of the Army's 10 active-duty divisions, nine are exceeding re-enlistment goals by 5 percent or more.

The United States is so fortunate that every day so many brave and talented young men and women willingly sign up to serve their country, knowing full well — just from watching the nightly news — the dangers and sacrifices involved.

Each one is a volunteer, and if it happened that we were to have no armed people to serve, all we would have to do is what any other organization would do — and that is increase the incentives and make military service a more attractive option for the best and brightest young people.

This is stress on our forces — but not because of any shortage of uniformed personnel.

For example, there are more than 1 million soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserve and National Guard. Of those, less than 12 percent are deployed to the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters. And the Army has al-

ready increased its active strength by as many as 30,000 troops since Sept. 11, 2001.

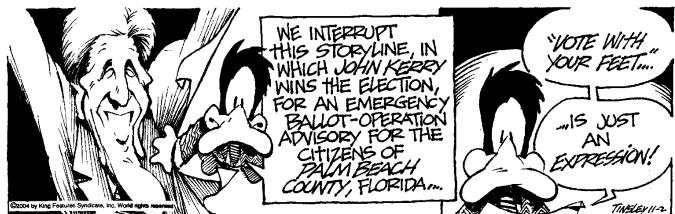
The issue is that our forces, particularly the Army, are not properly organized for the post-Cold War era. Too many skills needed on active duty are heavily concentrated in the reserve components. Too many of the active forces are not readily deployable. Too many military personnel — tens of thousands — are performing tasks that could and should be performed by civilians.

We have undertaken a range of initiatives to increase the pool of deployable troops within the armed forces and the quality of life for servicemembers and their families. The result will be that individual troops will be deployed less often, for shorter periods of time and with more predictability.

With a professional, all-volunteer force, the U.S. military won the Cold War, liberated Afghanistan and Iraq, and has kept the peace in Asia and Europe. And the all-volunteer force will win the global war on terror.

Donald Rumsfeld is secretary of defense.

## Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## Quick Trips



A lion stands regally at the main stairway leading to the royal apartments of the Caserta Royal Palace.



A park stretches for about 250 acres behind the palace. The formal English garden is at the far end.

PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

# Fit for a king

## Caserta Royal Palace exudes opulence

BY JASON CHUDY  
Stars and Stripes

**O**bi Wan Kenobi, meet the Bourbon kings.

The Reggia di Caserta, or Royal Palace, near Naples has a long history of hosting royalty, generals and, more recently, space aliens.

It was home to Charles III of

Bourbon, who wanted a palace of his own to rival his great-grandfather's Versailles palace in France. Construction started in 1752, and within a few years more than 2,650 people were working on it.

Construction eventually slowed, and the palace wasn't completed until 1845, long after Charles' death and near the end of the Bourbon dynasty.

Other rulers have since called the palace home.

During World War II, German forces occupied it after Italy's 1943 surrender.

A year later, 5th Army commander Gen. Mark Clark used part of the large palace as his headquarters, sharing it with Allied troops who visited it as an Army rest-and-recreation center. He also accepted the surrender of German forces in Italy at the palace on April 29, 1945.

More recently, it was host to another type of royal visitor, although her kingdom is fictitious. Parts of the interior were used as the Theed Palace of Queen Amidala in "Star Wars" episodes I and II.

After touring the palace, it seems no wonder that real kings and fake queens would want to call it home. Even the entrance to the royal apartments, the only area open to the public, is grand, as visitors ascend a large marble staircase decorated with marble lions and statues.

The palace is about 650 feet wide at its face and some 830 feet deep. Visitors are allowed on only one floor at the front of the palace, which is just a small part of the building.

But with ceilings rising to nearly 65 feet in some of the rooms, it's not hard to imagine even a king feeling small in the place.

All of the descriptive signs are in Italian, but English guidebooks are available for 5.20 euros in the

gift store, next to the ticket booth. It's a worthy investment, because the book also has information on and photos of areas not accessible to the public.

The first dozen or so rooms are ornate, but pretty much barren of furniture. The farther visitors move into the apartments, the more ornate and decorated the rooms get. It almost seems as if curators wanted to ease visitors into the palace's overwhelming beauty.

Likewise, the farther visitors walk down the passage, the more impressive it gets. From Charles' gold-encrusted throne room to numerous bedrooms, visitors are able to get a look at the opulence of the ordinary life of a Bourbon king.

As the hallway ends, visitors make a left turn into the palace's library complex. Books on the shelves date to the 13th century. Only panes of glass on the bookshelf doors separate these historical treasures from visitors.

One of the final exhibits is the "royal Christmas crib," which Americans would refer to as a nativity scene. Naples is famous for its cribs, and every Christmas the royals displayed one here.

They were created not only by artisans but also by the Bourbon princesses, who helped make the silk costumes.

In addition to the palace, the grounds include a 250-acre park and formal English garden, both of which are open to the public.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estripes.osd.mil.



AP/Stars and Stripes

## On the QT



### Directions

The Reggia di Caserta is in downtown Caserta. From either Capodichino or Grigignano, take the A1 autostrada north to Caserta Sud (south) exit. After a one-euro toll, take the main road into the city. The palace is at the end of this road, about three miles away. Just before the palace, an exit ramp on the right leads to an underground parking garage.



### Times

The palace is open 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The park is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the garden is open 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 2 to 3 p.m.



### Food

There is a cafeteria in the palace and dozens of restaurants or snack bars in nearby downtown Caserta.



### Costs

Entrance costs 4.20 euros for the palace, and 6 euros for the palace, park and English garden. Parking in the underground garage ranges from one euro for two hours to three euros for the day.



### Information

The palace has a Web site, at [www.reggiadicaserita.org](http://www.reggiadicaserita.org). Although the site has a link to an English version, it only links to a picture of the palace's staircase, and has no English text.

— JASON CHUDY

The Caserta Royal Palace's main entrance as approached from the underground parking garage. The palace is situated facing Naples, and the old highway to the city, which is still in use, started at the palace's front door.







## Dog phones 911

**WA** RICHLAND — Leana Beasley has faith that a dog is man's best friend.

Faith, a 4-year-old Rottweiler, phoned 911 when Beasley fell out of her wheelchair. The dog barked urgently into the receiver until a dispatcher sent help. Then the service dog unlocked the front door for the police officer.

"I sensed there was a problem on the other end of the 911 call," said dispatcher Jenny Buchanan. "The dog was too persistent in barking directly into the phone receiver. I knew she was trying to tell me something."

Faith is trained to summon help by pushing a speed-dial button on the phone with her nose after taking the receiver off the hook, said her owner, Beasley, 45, who suffers from bad seizures.

Guided by experts at the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound, Beasley helped train Faith herself. The day of the call, Faith "had been acting very clingy, wanting to be touching me all day long," Beasley said.

The dog, whose sensitive nose can detect changes in Beasley's body chemistry, is trained to alert her owner to impending seizures. But that wasn't what was happening on Sept. 7, and Faith apparently wasn't sure how to communicate the problem. During Beasley's three-week hospital stay, doctors determined her liver was not properly processing her seizure medication.

## No sweets at school

**CT** MILFORD — Cupcakes are contraband at Meadowside elementary school.

Principal Robert Davis' ban on all celebratory sweets has made some parents sour.

Health officials said Davis adopted a new policy of using games and crafts instead of baked goods to celebrate birthdays, holidays and special occasions, and praised it as a way to combat childhood obesity.

Parent Jack Fowler said no one should dictate what students can bring to school for special events. He said health and school officials have turned into the "fat police," in an attempt to rid schools of foods children enjoy.

Mayor James L. Richetelli Jr. said as a parent he can understand health and school officials' concern regarding food allergies and childhood obesity, but cupcakes should remain.

## Gear falls off plane

**FL** SAFETY HARBOR — Part of the landing gear of a Delta airliner bound for Tampa fell from the sky and onto the roof of a mobile home where a retiree was sitting down to sip a beer.

No one was injured, and the Boeing 767 aircraft landed at Tampa International Airport without incident, authorities said.

A 7-by-7-foot aluminum door that covers the landing gear fell but did not affect the airplane's integrity, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Pilots aboard Delta Flight 432 may not have even known about the malfunction until after the plane landed.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

On the ground, John Nork had just started a can of Budweiser in his screened-in porch when he thought a neighboring palm tree crashed onto his roof.

"I never thought of something falling from the sky," said Nork, 62, a former Marine and retired auto-plant employee. "I had just gotten settled in, and here's this big kaboom! It was right over my head."

He stayed in his fold-up lawn chair for more than five minutes, he said, too shocked to move.

## FEMA asks for space

**WV** CHARLESTON — The Federal Emergency Management Agency is asking mobile home park operators to help provide spaces for temporary flood housing to help Northern Panhandle residents who suffered damage when the remnants of Hurricane Ivan hit the state last month. FEMA is turning to mobile home parks because there's a limited number of rental units in the area.

## Foster parent suspected

**CO** LONGMONT — A foster parent and former teacher is being investigated on suspicion of making child-pornography movies with a hidden camera in the bathroom of his home.



## Gas-powered job

Paul Gonzalez uses a gas-powered blower to move leaves off a sidewalk in Anderson, S.C.

A warrant out for the arrest of Laurence Reed Senterfit, 43, includes a bail amount of \$500,000. He has not been taken into custody because he is in a hospital, recovering from a suicide attempt after running his car into a parked recreation vehicle, according to police.

Senterfit plowed into the abandoned motor home Oct. 12 and has been hospitalized since then with 10 broken ribs, a broken sternum and a broken pelvis, police said.

## Candidate bows out

**AR** CONWAY — A Republican state legislative candidate suspended his campaign after news surfaced of his arrest record for exposing himself to children.

Alan Fortney was arrested three times since 1981 on misdemeanor counts of indecent exposure. He was fined but never served time in jail, he told the Log Cabin Democrat newspaper of Conway, about 25 miles north of Little Rock.

In a statement, Fortney said he was suspending his campaign because he believes "it is in the best interest of my family and me personally to take my name out of consideration for this office."

Fortney, 42, told The Associated Press he didn't "know what else to say."

"My name will still be on there (the ballot) but I've discontinued my campaign. I pulled the ads, everything," he said.

If he gets elected anyway, Fortney said, "I will deal with it, at that time."

Fortney's Democratic opponent, Betty Pickett, said she was surprised but had no further comment.

## Landscaper arrested

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco Bay landscaper is accused of scamming seniors out of up to \$4 million in a bogus investment scheme that may cost some of them their homes.

Charles Melvin Turner, 43, was arrested after Santa Clara County sheriff's investigators uncovered widening allegations he persuaded at least 10 seniors to loan millions that he claimed would be invested in his online dating service, LoveConcierge.com, and a vending machine firm.

Instead, investigators claim the money often went for lavish spending by Turner and his wife on travel, luxury cars, dining out and "living well," said Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Cindy Hendrickson.

"These people are devastated," the prosecutor said of people as old as age 93. "They not only have to deal with the financial loss, but they have to deal with the betrayal of someone they really, really trusted."

## School regains rights

**IN** SOUTH BEND — Indiana University South Bend was given approval to again review its own research projects. Research with human subjects was briefly halted one year ago because the school didn't follow proper procedures in approving the research methods.

Concerns arose because some researchers were incorrectly told by the campus review board that their projects didn't require board approval.



Beauty is not for every pup — Susan Guadagno of Key West, Fla., puts finishing touches on pug Rosie's costume during the Fantasy Fest Pet Masquerade and Parade in Key West, Fla.



Amish life — An Amish farmer uses draught horses to pull an implement to collect cornstalks from the fields in Pulaski, Pa.



Sleeping chicks — Katie Smith, from Lincoln, Neb., tries to quiet her 5-month-old daughter, Bella, prior to the Kids Parade as 3-month-old Gracie McClain, from Independence, Kan., sleeps on during the Newsworld festival. Newsworld, which is Halloween spelled backwards, is an Independence tradition.



## Staying focused

Juan Lucero peers through a pair of binoculars at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M., to look at the lunar eclipse.



## Just taking my time

A bison walks down a road in the Lamar Valley of Yellowstone National Park, Wyo., as people in automobiles observe the migration while waiting their turn to move.



## Rough track

Eneko Llanos of Spain negotiates rocky terrain en route to taking first place in the Xterra World Championship in Maui, Hawaii.



## Central Park fall colors

Boaters on The Lake at Central Park row past a bank of trees turning colors in New York.

## Book didn't help

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — An unemployed man — who had just bought a copy of "The Big Bad Book of American Bank Robbery" when the FBI arrested him — was sentenced to more than nine years in prison for robbing nearly two dozen banks across California.

Buchanan, 32, was also ordered by U.S. District Judge Fern Smith in San Francisco to pay \$84,885 in restitution for his spree of robberies that ended in September 2003.

When police arrested Buchanan, they found the bank-robbery book, chronicling the history of bank heists and describing various holdup techniques, in his car, authorities said. A receipt showed that he bought the book only an hour before his last robbery.

## Remains, beer lifted

**WI** PORTAGE — A woman dug up her dead boyfriend's ashes more than 10 years ago and drank the beer that was buried with him, possibly out of spite for his family, authorities said.

The family of Michael Hendrickson contacted authorities when they received information that his remains had been stolen. An exhumation revealed Hendrickson's cremated remains — along with beer and cigarettes that were buried with him — were missing.

Detectives searched the home of his ex-girlfriend, Karen Stolzmann, and discovered her hiding in the shower. Remains believed to be Hendrickson's were found in the garage, according to Columbia County Detective Wayne Smith, who called the case "twisted and bizarre."

Stolzmann, 44, was charged with a misdemeanor count of concealing stolen property. Detective Jay Yerges said Stolzmann and Hendrickson were living together in the early 1990s, while they were both married to other people. The relationship was stormy, with a pattern of alcohol and domestic abuse, he said.

Stolzmann was present when the 27-year-old Hendrickson shot himself in January 1992. Yerges said Hendrickson's family blamed her for his death and she was not invited to his services.

Robbing graves, a felony offense, has a six-year statute of limitations.

## Deaths seem accidental

**FL** ORLANDO — The deaths of six family members in a home filled with a lethal level of carbon monoxide appear to be "a tragic accident," officials said.

Nothing suggests the woman, two men and three boys were deliberately killed or died in a suicide attempt, said Orange County Sheriff's Cpl. Allen Lee.

A car was found in the garage with the ignition on after the bodies were discovered. Authorities believe the car may have been out of gas.

The bodies of the family members were found by a neighbor; all were in their beds. Authorities believe the owner of the car, who worked a late shift, may have been tired and forgot to shut off the car.

"This is looking more and more like a tragic accident," Lee said.

The car's exhaust was close to an intake for the home's air conditioning, which apparently spread

the deadly gas throughout the residence.

Autopsies have been conducted; toxicology reports are due in eight to 12 weeks.

## School standards down

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Nearly 20 percent of the state's public schools were given a passing grade because of lowered standards, not improved performance, a Philadelphia Inquirer analysis concluded. According to the report, more than twice as many schools in Pennsylvania wouldn't have made what's termed "adequate yearly progress" toward federally mandated goals this year if certain standards hadn't been changed by the state.

## Students to be excused

**GA** DULUTH — Muslim students in Georgia's largest school system would be allowed to leave school early on Fridays to attend a mosque under a compromise reached by Muslim leaders and school officials. The announcement came after Isam Rashid and Imad Rashid, two brothers at Duluth High School, asked to be excused early for a weekly prayer required of Muslims.

## Genetic tests expanded

**NY** ALBANY — Babies born in New York will be tested for 44 genetic diseases — more than any other state — under an expansion of the state's newborn screening program.

Infants are currently screened for 11 inherited and sometimes life-threatening disorders including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia and phenylketonuria.

Under the expanded program, the number of diseases tested in newborns would quadruple by 2005. Twenty diseases will be added by the end of this year and another 13 in 2005.

Early diagnosis and prompt treatment after birth can prevent mental retardation and other complications later on. Iowa, Mississippi and North Dakota test between 38 to 43 inherited diseases in newborns, according to the National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center.

## Elderly man killed

**CA** ONTARIO — An elderly man was fatally shot by three teenagers as he took his daily walk in the park, police said.

Fidencio Guzman, 89, was shot at a park in Ontario, said Detective Al Parra. The retired farmer originally from Mexico was transported to a local hospital where he died.

Parra said two 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old were taken into custody at Chaffey High School and incriminated each other during questioning. He said all three were booked for investigation of murder; their names will not be released until charges are filed.

The detective said the suspects went to the park intending to rob other juveniles but approached Guzman and demanded money. When he didn't understand, they began patting him down and then shot Guzman several times as he tried to stand, Parra said. Witnesses saw three male teenagers wearing ski masks run through the park immediately after the shooting.

Stories and photos from wire services



# **AFRTS Television Schedule**

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Sex and the Single Mom" (2003) Doris (Sally O'Grady, Grant Show)	Dr. Phil	Jacopoly!	Nightline	Your Championship Preview Show	30 Minute Meals	Jacopoly!
9:30 Sagna-Siamese Cat				Nightly Business Report		Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)		8:45 Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	NHRA Drag Racing AC Delco Nationals From Las Vegas (Taped)	Best for Less	ESPNews
10:30 Between the Lions (E)	[45] Movie *** "The Three Musketeers" (1993, Adventure) Charlie Sheen, Kiefer Sutherland, Chris O'Donnell	[35] Guiding Light	Advisory Block	CNN Daybreak		Stripped	Pacific Report
11:00 Sagna-Siamese Cat		[17] General Hospital	NFL Football Miami Dolphins at New York Jets, From Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.	The O'Reilly Factor		The King of Queens	NFL Football Miami Dolphins at New York Jets, From Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.
11:30 Stanley		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News		That '70s Show	Headline News
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Good Morning America Election coverage.	SportsCenter	Girlfriends "Just Dessert"	Girlfriends "Just Dessert"
12:30 The Wiggles	Coming Attractions	Movie *** "Chances Are" (1989) Cybil Shepherd. A re-carnated lawyer stumbles into his former wife's life.	Today Jim Miller, the centennial of the banana split.			Charm'd Look Who's Barking	
13:00 Bob the Builder			ESPNews		NFL Total Access	Aly McBeal "Let's Dance"	ESPNews
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		I Spy	The Tonight Show	Headline News	College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Any Day Now "The Isolated Behind the Church"	The Tonight Show
14:00 Barney & Friends (E 15-17)	Movie *** "Kramer vs. Kramer" (1979) Dustin Hoffman, Faye Dunaway. A re-carnated lawyer stumbles into his former wife's life.	Animaniacs	Late Show	Channel One		ER "Where the Heart Is"	Headline News
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Bracettes	Teen Kids News (E)	The Early Show		Law & Order "Via Liza Mae"	The Late Late Show
15:30 Full House		Headline News	Headline News		SportsCenter	The Simpsons	
16:00 Pokemon		Headline News	Dennis Miller	FOX News	NFL Football Miami Dolphins at New York Jets, From Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
16:30 To-Go! Kibba is trapped.		Jacopoly!	The Late Late Show	FOX News		Star Trek: Enterprise	Countdown With Keith Obermann
17:00 Hey Arnold!	The Entertainers	Headline News		FOX News		CBS Crime Scene Investigation "Blood Lust"	Entertainment Studios.com
17:30 Rocket Power	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews		FOX News		Biography James Lee Curtis Hollywood's Girl Next Door	Headline News
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Obermann	FOX News		Friends	Today Jim Miller, the centennial of the banana split.
18:30 A Rugrats Passover	Movie *** "The Suburban" (1999, Comedy) Craig Bierko, Amy Brenneman.	Smallville "Rico"	2004 Radio Music Awards	FOX News		Seinfeld "The Understudy"	
19:00 The Amanda Show		Movie *** "Tat to Die" (2003, Suspense) Tracy Pollan, Gil Bellows, Robert Patrick. Four women join forces to bring a serial killer to justice.	Headline News	FOX News		Blind Date	
20:00 Everwood Andy's in-naps pay an unexpected visit.		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Wire to Wire	
20:30 Sister, Sister	[36] Movie *** "Tat to Die" (2003, Suspense) Tracy Pollan, Gil Bellows, Robert Patrick. Four women join forces to bring a serial killer to justice.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		NFL Live	
21:00 Sister, Sister "Free Billy"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Around the Horn	
22:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Blind Date	
22:30 Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News		Blind Date	
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Some-thing Blue"	Movie *** "North Shore" (1987) Matt Adler, Nia Peeples.	The Tonight Show	Headline News	FOX News		Blind Date	

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2004

0:00 Hey Arnold!	[11:30] Movie *** "North Shore" (1987) Matt Adler.	[11:30] Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
0:30 Rocket Power		CBS Evening News	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Enterprise	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	[12:45] Movie *** "High School Dilemma" (1993, Western) Clint Eastwood, Verna Bloom.	Election Coverage Voting results.	Blue's Clues	ABC World News Tonight	NBA Tipoff	Wheel of Fortune	Blue's Clues
1:30 Rugrats		Election Coverage Voting results.	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News		Monk "Mr. Monk and the Earthquake"	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 The Proud Family		Election Coverage Voting results.	Dr. Phil	Countdown With Keith Obermann		CBS Crime Scene Investigation "Blood Lust"	Oprah Winfrey
2:30 The Amanda Show	Coming Attractions	Election Coverage Voting results.	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes		Friends	NBC Nightly News
3:00 Everwood Andy's in-naps pay an unexpected visit.	Movie *** "The Suburban" (1999, Comedy) Craig Bierko, Amy Brenneman.	Election Coverage Voting results.	Headline News	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Lakers. From Staples Center in Los Angeles. (Live)	Seinfeld "The Understudy"	Judge Judy
3:30 Sister, Sister		Election Coverage Voting results.	Judge Judy	Low Dobbs Tonight		Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
4:30 Sister, Sister "Free Billy"	[36] Movie *** "Tat to Die" (2003, Suspense) Tracy Pollan, Gil Bellows, Robert Patrick. Four women join forces to bring a serial killer to justice.	Headline News	Access Hollywood	[25] Guiding Light	CNN Election 2004: America Votes (Joined in Progress)	Caribbean Workout	[25] Guiding Light
5:00 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	[25] Guiding Light	CNN Election 2004: America Votes (Joined in Progress)		Body Shopping	Headline News
6:00 Blue's Clues Part 2		Headline News	Headline News			TYPICAL My Elan	Sylvester & Tweety
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)	The Entertainers	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live			The View	Buzz Lightyear of Star
7:30 Bob the Builder	Behind the Scenes	Bear in the Big Blue House		BEY Nightly News		Enrill Live	The Fairy GodParents
8:00 The Wiggles	Entertainment Tonight	Blue's Clues	The Fairy GodParents	Yanis Smiley	SportsCenter	30 Minute Meals	My Life as a Teenage Robot
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Midwives" (2001) Stacy Spaeck. A midwife is charged with her patient's death.	Dr. Phil	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Nightline		Food 911	Headline News
9:30 Sagna-Siamese Cat		Headline News	Headline News	Nightly Business Report		Sensational	ESPNews
10:00 Arthur (E)		8:45 Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Headline News	Headline News
10:30 Between the Lions (E)		[35] Guiding Light	Advisory Block	CNN Daybreak		ET News Live	The Parkers
11:00 Sagna-Siamese Cat		[17] General Hospital	The Parkers	The O'Reilly Factor		The King of Queens	Arrested Development
11:30 Stanley		Headline News	Arrested Development	Headline News		Arrested Development	America's Next Top Model
12:00 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	America's Next Top Model	Headline News		Charm'd "Into the Woods"	
12:30 The Wiggles	Movie *** "The Great Gatsby" (2000) Mira Sorvino, Tony Danza. A mysterious millionaire goes for a socialite.	Judge Judy	Las Vegas "Nevada State"	Good Morning America Election to election results.	Sports	Aly McBeal "Only the Lonely"	Pacific Report
13:00 Bob the Builder		Headline News	Headline News			Any Day Now "Who Abandoned Who?"	The Tonight Show
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)		Sylvester & Tweety	The Tonight Show	Headline News		ER "Rampage"	Headline News
14:00 Barney & Friends (E)		Light & Lively	Headline News	Channel One	Baseball Tonight	Law & Order "Passion"	Access Hollywood
14:30 Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	Headline News	The Early Show	NFL Live	Law & Order "Passion"	The Late Late Show
15:00 Pokemon		Headline News	Headline News		SportsCenter	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
16:00 Hey Arnold!	Movie *** "North Shore" (1987) Matt Adler, Nia Peeples.	Headline News	Headline News		FOX News	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Obermann
17:00 Rocket Power	Reese Witherspoon Revealed	Headline News	Headline News		FOX News	Pear Factor	Entertainment Studios.com
18:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	Coming Attractions	ESPNews	Headline News		FOX News	Andromeda "Lava and Rockets"	The Hot List
18:30 A Rugrats Passover	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller		FOX News	Discovery Science: Sky-Space Sea	The Hot List
19:00 Kenan & Kel	Movie *** "The Mummy Returns" (2001, Adventure) Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz. A young man taking the O'Connell's precious son.	The Parkers	Countdown With Keith Obermann		FOX News	Friends	Today Today Shows a Destination Wedding, orthonic ad-vice.
20:00 Gilmore Girls "Rory's Dance" (Part 1 of 2)		Arrested Development	America's Next Top Model		FOX News	Seinfeld	
20:30 Depress: Next		America's Next Top Model	Las Vegas "Nevada State"		FOX News	The Daily Show	
21:00 Depress: Next		Headline News	Headline News		FOX News	Blind Date	
22:00 The Cosby Show "Man Talk"		Headline News	Headline News		FOX News	Blind Date	
22:30 Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News		FOX News	Blind Date	
23:00 Touched by an Angel "into the Light"	Movie *** "A Soldier's Story" (1994) Adolph Caesar.	The Tonight Show	Headline News		FOX News	Blind Date	
23:30		Late Show	Headline News		FOX News	Blind Date	

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## FACES



Members of the Canadian rock band Sum 41 gather on a roof top in central London. The band—from left, lead singer Deryck Whibley, bassist Jay McCaslin, guitarist Dave Baksh and drummer Steve Jocz—is currently on a promotional tour to launch their new album entitled “CHUCK.”

# Stage antics aside, Sum 41 is all grown up

BY COLLEEN LONG  
The Associated Press

**W**hether they like it or not, the punks from Sum 41 are growing up.

The Canadian foursome of 20-somethings has crafted a more focused and melodic new album, “CHUCK,” with a much heavier sound than their obnoxious teenage boy anthem “Fat Lip.” They have all recently become homeowners. And—gasp!—lead singer Deryck Whibley says he’s sick of going to strip clubs and getting drunk all the time.

Gays: We know you pride yourselves on crazy antics, on and off stage—but this is not how immature people behave.

The band named the new album for a United Nations worker who saved their lives while they were shooting a documentary in the Republic of Congo.

Whibley, guitarist Dave Baksh, bassist Jay McCaslin and drummer Steve Jocz traveled there in May for the nonprofit group War Child Canada.

The last day of shooting, a year-long peace was broken and gunfire erupted around them. After the U.N. worker helped them out of the hotel, which was directly in the line of fire, they spent hours huddled in a U.N. compound before getting a flight out.

“Surprisingly, the whole thing didn’t do much to us. It was crazy and we survived it, but it didn’t make me appreciate life or anything more,” Whibley said via phone from London. “What it did was give me an understanding of how awful it really is down there.”

Whibley says it’s not strange for a rock group to do nonprofit work.

“I think people are surprised by some of the things we do, that they are good things,” he said. “We’re still the same people, it doesn’t matter if we’re on stage yelling or doing charity work.”

Whibley and the others are from Ajax, Ontario, a tiny town where there’s not much else to do but be angry about

being stuck in a tiny town.

“When you’re living in a big city, there’s so much to see and do,” he said. “But when you’re living in a (expletive) town in the middle of nowhere there’s nothing else to do but music.”

The four have known each other about 10 years. About five years ago the band put together a video of sorts, set to their music, showing them egging houses and causing all sorts of trouble in their little town. The video caused a buzz in the music industry and the band was able to take their pick of record labels, choosing Island/Def Jam.

Their first album, “All Killer No Filler,” sounds a little like old Beastie Boys stuff, and “Does This Look Infected?” is only about 32 minutes long.

Initially, their shows drew a lot of young girls. “There’s no loyalty to bands when you’re that age,” Whibley said. “Your music taste changes every second. This time around we’ve gotten some guys and some older girls and we’re happier about it.”

He says the band still goes out every night in true rock star fashion, drinking and breaking things and frequenting nude bars.

But recently, when the band was shuttled to a posh London strip club to feast on steak and lobster and oggle the half-naked women serving drinks, Whibley just couldn’t get into it.

“I never thought I’d get to a point where I’m not that excited about seeing really hot, naked women,” he said. “I feel kind of spoiled saying it.”

He won’t say whether that has anything to do with his reported relationship with another angsty Canadian singer, Avril Lavigne.

Whibley won’t talk about that at all, although he’s quick to correct a reporter who asks if Lavigne is 18 (“She’s 20.”) Whibley quickly changes the subject, saying he’s always wanted to be more of a rock star than a musician.

“I didn’t want to be some guy playing a guitar in a bar,” he said. “But that doesn’t mean I don’t like to be musical or to experiment with new sounds. We don’t like repeating ourselves.”

Sounds like some pretty mature stuff.

## Chow says he’s misunderstood

Actor **Chow Yun-Fat** says he is misunderstood in Hollywood, where he is cast mostly in action films involving gunplay.

“I’m unlucky. Nobody understands me,” the Ming Pao Daily News quoted Chow as telling a group of university students. “But I can wait. I hope someone who understands me will come along.”

Chow said Hollywood is fixated on his on-screen gunfighter style.

“Foreigners look me up because of John Woo’s movies, only because they see that my gun scenes are good,” Chow said, referring to the Hong Kong director who has also moved on to Hollywood.

Woo directed Chow in the Hong Kong productions “A Better Tomorrow” and “Hard Boiled,” which showcased Chow’s action-scene prowess. But the actor also starred in romance films such as “An Autumn’s Tale,” and “Love in a Fallen City.”



Chow

## Ma\$e: God is the king of bling bling

Thou shalt bling? According to **Ma\$e**, God doesn’t mind when people adorn themselves with flashy jewelry.

“He don’t have no problem with you blinging,” the rapper said in an interview, during which he wore a jeweled necklace and bracelet.

God’s heavenly abode proves that he’s the real king of bling, Ma\$e added.

“His gates are pearly, his house is about 10 stadiums big, the streets are gold—you do the budget on that kind of place,” said Ma\$e, 26.

Ma\$e retired from rap in 1999 to follow a religious calling, but returned to hip-hop this summer with the album “Welcome Back,” which is free of the cursing, drug references and womanizing that peppered his earlier work. Ma\$e continues to preach in the Atlanta area.

## A Della Reese by any other name...

Actress **Della Reese** is joining an elite group of famous people who have roses named after them.

With the “Della” rose, she joins the ranks of the late Princess Diana, President John F. Kennedy, Queen Elizabeth and Dolly Parton.

The fragrant hybrid with a deep burgundy color will be dedicated to the actress’ honor Jan. 3 in a ceremony sponsored by Armstrong Garden Centers.

Reese, 73, who starred in the long-running series “Touched by an Angel,” grows several dozen varieties of roses at her home, said her publicist, Eric Raymond.

“Roses are very special to me,” Reese said. “There’s a spiritual aspect to them that appeals to me and, like people, each one is uniquely individual and beautiful.”

## Tom Ford comes out with big, bold book

Former Gucci designer **Tom Ford**’s new book is like his description of Texas fashion: big and bold.

“There’s a boldness to Texans that carries over into fashion and I like that,” said Ford, who stepped down in the spring as creative director for the Italian luxury fashion house after 10 years.

The native Texan was in Dallas on Thursday for a party to celebrate his new book, “Tom Ford,” a look book at his designs for Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent.

The 43-year-old said that doing the book was cathartic after leaving Gucci.

“It seemed like a perfect time to re-live everything, revisit it, box up all the things that meant something to me in a beautiful book and slipcover and call it a chapter of my life and move on,” Ford said.

Ford, who has a film production office in Los Angeles, said directing will be his next endeavor. But he doesn’t rule out the possibility of returning to design.

“Six months ago I thought ‘No, never,’” he said. “Now I think, ‘Yes, probably.’”



Ford

# Horoscope

This Election Day, the moon is in the most patriotic placement as it transits through Cancer, the birth sign of America. Voter turnout should be up and spirits high, with flags aptly waving proudly. The Scorpio sun is compatible with the Cancer moon, and we'll ask questions, use our intuition and seek the truth until the last ballot is cast.

**Joyce Jillson**



## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(November 2).** You will be swept up in the spirit of generosity and enthusiasm this year, and will suddenly feel a deep need to help others by volunteering in your community. Your efforts will be rewarded in very surprising ways — you may find your soul mate in December while doing a good deed for someone else. Lucky love signs are Cancer and Leo.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** What you want from others is conflicting with what they need for themselves. Try not to take it personally if your sweetheart or a friend doesn't seem to have time for you right now.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** A new challenge will force you to see a different side of yourself than you normally face. Don't be surprised if you find yourself speaking in public to a large group — nerve-racking, sure, but nothing you can't handle.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You've been spinning your wheels, feeling stalled while the rest of the world is on fast-forward. What you need is a change of scenery to shake the cobwebs out of your eyes.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** A certain difficult co-worker loves to push your buttons. He or she always knows exactly what to say to make you feel insecure, especially if it's about your personal life. Try compassion rather than getting defensive.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your enthusiasm revives everyone around you by providing a much-needed energy boost. One word of caution: Someone higher up is trying to take

all the credit for your work.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** A female friend or co-worker who is younger and less educated than you will be able to offer you startling insights into a personal problem. Sometimes, your book smarts blind you to the simplest answers.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Belief always trumps doubt. Sure, it's easy to keep your faith in the divine order of the universe when everything's coming up roses for you. It's much harder, and much more important, to keep it when the going gets tough.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Keep things moving in the right direction by communicating information clearly. This is especially true if you don't think what you're saying is particularly important. Your words are much more powerful than you realize.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The big picture is coming into sharp focus, enabling you to discern recurring patterns and themes. Use this opportunity to correct your course of direction if necessary. Tie up any loose ends.

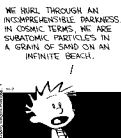
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The physics behind chaos theory says nothing happens by chance. Everything is cyclical, and the cycles are so long that sometimes events appear to us short-lived mortals as bizarre flukes. Trust in life's process.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Be very clear about what you hope to achieve. When faced with an overly critical family member or friend, smile and tell that person you love him or her. Nothing else you tell them today will be understood, so don't even try.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** That special someone in your life is pulling away from you now because he or she is afraid of losing you too much and getting hurt. Your first instinct will be to hold on tight. Resist this urge.

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**Calvin and Hobbes**



**Jump Start**



**Zits**



**Cathy**



**Hi and Lois**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Red Rover**



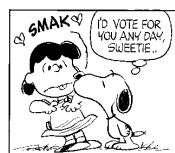
**Better or Worse**



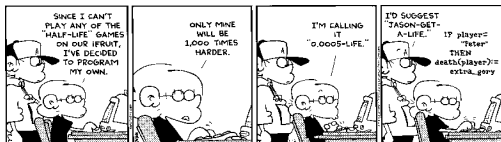
## To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce-Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

## Peanuts



## Foxtrot



**B.C.**



## Baby Blues



## Spider-Man



## Blondie



**Dilbert**



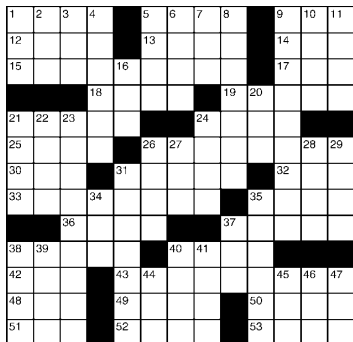
## Hagar



## Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### Across

- |                                  |                                 |                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 The Mac-Donald place           | Were —                          | bottles               |
| 5 Shooter's marbles              | 53 Carnival attraction          | 24 Long story         |
| 9 Poorly lit                     |                                 | 26 Cacophonies        |
| 12 Vicinity                      | <b>Down</b>                     | 27 Squid squirt       |
| 13 Medicine                      | 1 Craze                         | 28 Yule refrain       |
| 14 Historic period               | 2 Exist                         | 29 Formerly,          |
| 15 Bistro quaff                  | 3 Sleep phenom                  | formerly              |
| 17 Cambridge sch.                | 4 Cereal grasses                | 31 A fast 30 days?    |
| 18 Goose egg                     | 5 Ski lift carrier              | 34 Young fellow       |
| 19 Fried, filled dough           | 6 Additionally                  | 35 Not afresco        |
| 21 Golden fleece princess        | 7 "It — the best of times, ..." | 37 Kipling hero       |
| 24 Appear                        | 8 Money of Israel               | 38 Santa —, CA        |
| 25 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer  | 9 Low-prestige                  | 39 Parka feature      |
| 26 Caller's go-ahead             | 10 Eye part                     | 40 Congregation's cry |
| 30 Edge                          | 11 Calculator's job             | 41 Workbench need     |
| 31 "Fifth day of Christmas" gift | 12 Afternoon affair             | 44 Swelled head       |
|                                  | 20 Bottom line                  | 48 Sprocket sash      |
|                                  | 21 NASA destination             | 49 Rooge (Fr.)        |
|                                  | 22 Middle Eastern rule          | 47 Look at            |

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 11-2 CRYPTOUIP

C N    Z    G H E E R G    K W B B Q R Q  
C J J - N C D D C E P    Q W B R Q ,  
O W R    K B H I M    R Z O C I L    N R R I

DWR ZPBEL BN MR-NRRD.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHY WOULD A  
FELLOW BREAK INTO SONG? PERHAPS  
BECAUSE HE CAN'T FIND THE RIGHT KEY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals T









# STRISES CLASSIFIED

Events

460

## RELOCATION FAIR FOR SOLDIERS PCS'ING TO FT BLISS

Jan 12-14th from 3 PM to 7 PM each day

RE/MAX Elite from El Paso, TX will be hosting a Home Buying Seminar and provide rental information on the above days at the Windmühle Hotel (The Windmill Hotel) Ansbach.

Verde Mortgage will be available to answer VA loan questions and other loan questions.



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630

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European Stars and Stripes Daily Home Delivery

Pick up: Holiday Inn-Walldorf (Heidelberg Area)  
Drop off: Hockenheim, Reilingen, Walldorf

Also:

Pick up: Heidelberg PHV-Burger King  
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\*\*\* Vehicle Required for this position\*\*\*

For more details please call:

James P. Alferbach  
District Manager: Civ: 0172-6707-347

## (FCBS)

FC Business Systems, Inc. (FCBS), a leading engineering and IT services company, is currently recruiting for the following contract positions to support the operation of the deployed Communication and Information Systems (CIS) from the NATO Network Control Centre at SHAPE (Belgium-Castell):

### Telecommunications Engineer

Requires a university degree or equivalent education level in Telecommunications or related field plus minimum two years of practical experience in operating or controlling transmission systems, including multiplexing equipment, or remote monitoring and control of a geographically distributed automated system.

### Telecommunications Technician

Requires a higher secondary education and intermediate/advanced vocational training with at least one year experience in remotely controlling a geographically dispersed automated system, and a sound telecommunications background with a minimum of one-year experience in the management or installation of data communications equipment. Shift work required.

### Information Systems Engineer

Requires a university degree, or equivalent education level, in Telecommunications or related field, plus minimum two years practical experience in LAN/WAN computer networking; and operating/controlling transmission systems, or remote monitoring and control of a geographically distributed automated system.

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Please send all resumes to [careers@fcbs.com](mailto:careers@fcbs.com) and visit us at [www.fcbs.com](http://www.fcbs.com) to learn more about the company.

# Singh is golf's first \$10 million man

World's No. 1 player wins ninth PGA event of 2004

The Associated Press

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Vijay Singh scaled the mountain two months ago when he beat Tiger Woods in a final-round duel outside Boston to become No. 1 in the world.



Turns out that was only the start. In his most dominant performance of an incredible year, Singh birdied the first two holes he's never let anyone get within two shots of him the rest of the day. He closed with a 6-under 65 to set the tournament record at the Chrysler Championship and win by five shots, the largest margin of his nine PGA Tour victories this year.

"The wins keeps coming, and I'm enjoying every bit of it," Singh said.

He became only the sixth player with that many victories, joining a list of legends and one contemporary — Paul Runyan, Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan, Sam Snead and Woods.

And he claimed one spot all for himself — the first \$10 million man in golf.

"I'm not one for stats," Singh said. "I just know it's been an incredible



Singh

ble year for me. I haven't really sat down and thought about it, what I've done. I'll only enjoy it when the season is over."

Singh was introduced as a \$10 million man, sweet words for a guy who once made \$10 a lesson as the resident club pro in the rain forests of Borneo.

"That's a new one," Singh said.

"It's a good one, though."

It was another great performance, his sixth victory in his last eight starts on the PGA Tour.

With a one-shot lead over Tommy Armour III, Singh got up-and-down for a birdie on the par-5 opening hole, then rolled in an 8-footer for birdie on No. 2.

With his lead down to two as he was approaching the turn, Singh fired a sand wedge into 10 feet, firing a birdie on the ninth hole, then stuffed another one to 3 feet on the 10th.

He finished in style with a birdie from the fairway bunker on No. 18, putting him at 18-under 266. The lead broke by one the tournament record set by K.J. Choi in 2002.

Singh earned \$900,000, finishing five shots ahead of Armour (69) and Jesper Parnevik (68). Joe Durant had the best round Sunday with a 63 to finish fourth, one shot ahead of Kirk Triplett (70).

Armour three-putted from 30 feet, the par putt was only 3 feet to fall into a two-way tie for second. That was the difference of \$100,000, enough to allow Parnevik to finish No. 40 on the money list and qualify for the Masters.

Singh has \$10,725,166, more than \$5 million ahead of Phil Mickelson. The season-ending Tour Championship next week gives him a chance to make it a 10-10 season with his 10th victory.

Only Byron Nelson (18 wins in 1945), Ben Hogan (13 in 1946, 10 in 1948) and Sam Snead (11 in 1951) have won that often on the PGA Tour.

### Park routs LPGA field

JEJU, South Korea — Grace Park won the CJ Nine Bridges Classic, shooting a 7-under 65 for a five-stroke victory.

Park finished at 16-under 200. Top-ranked Annika Sorenstam and Carin Koch, both of Sweden, shot 67s and tied for second at 11 under. Sorenstam earned the day three strokes off the lead and closed her round with an eagle.

# D'backs hire Backman as manager

The Associated Press

## Sports briefs

PHOENIX — Wally Backman was hired Monday as manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks, taking over a team coming off one of the worst seasons in major league history.

A former New York Mets second baseman with a reputation for intensity in the dugout, Backman was selected minor league manager of the year this season by The Sporting News after leading Class A Lancaster to the best record in the California League. It was his first year in the Diamondbacks' organization.

Backman, 45, was given a two-year contract with two team options. He was chosen over former Seattle manager Bob Melvin and Montreal Expos third base coach Manny Acta.

Backman played 14 seasons in the major leagues, the first nine with the Mets. He had a 275 career average with 240 RBIs and 117 stolen bases.

He takes over a franchise that dropped to 51-111 record last season, the worst in the seven-year history of the Diamondbacks, who won the World Series title in 2001. The losses matched the 10th-most losses in major league history.

### Drug overdose killed Caminiti

NEW YORK — A drug overdose killed former NL MVP Ken Caminiti, who admitted using steroids during his playing days, in a test positive for cocaine in the days before he died.

Coronary artery disease and an enlarged heart were listed as contributing factors in the death of Caminiti, Grace Bruggess, spokeswoman for the New York City Medical Examiner, said Monday. She said the death had been ruled an accident.

The 15-year major league veteran, who won the NL MVP award in 1996, admitted in a Houston court just days before he died that he had tested positive for cocaine. Caminiti, 41, died Oct. 10 in the Bronx.

Tissue and toxicology tests confirmed Caminiti's cause of death as acute intoxication due to the combined effects of cocaine and opiates," Bruggess said. She said those drugs had weakened his heart.

### Astros GM Hunsicker resigns

HOUSTON — Houston Astros General Manager Gerry Hunsicker resigned Monday, less than two weeks after the team came within one win of reaching the World Series for the first time.

"It has been an incredible nine years, and when I look back I will take with me a lifetime of memories," said Hunsicker, who had a job for nine years.

Tim Lincecum, the team's director of player development, will succeed him immediately.

"I have very large shoes to fill,"

said Purpura, who has been with the Astros for 11 years.

During Hunsicker's tenure, the Astros won four NL Central titles and finished second three times, including this past season.

Hunsicker, 53, said he will remain with the Astros as an adviser through next season.

### Tie puts Revolution in MLS conference finals

COLUMBUS, Ohio — New England goalkeeper Matt Reis saved two Columbus Crew penalty kicks, helping the Revolution advance to the MLS Eastern Conference finals with a 1-1 tie Sunday night.

Reis fouled Crew forward Kyle Martino inside the penalty area in the 24th minute, then blocked Reis' attempt to convert the resulting penalty kick.

Columbus had a chance to take the lead with a second penalty kick in the 73rd minute, but midfielder Tony Sanneh's shot was corralled by Reis.

The Crew made a league-record 20 straight successful penalty kicks before Paulie's miss, ending a streak that began in 1999.

### Bobcats dead Hunter to Magic

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Bobcats traded forward Brandon Hunter to the Orlando Magic on Monday in exchange for guard Keith Bogans.

Hunter was picked by the Bobcats in the expansion draft after playing a rookie season in Boston, averaging 3.5 points and 3.3 rebounds in 36 games.

## SCOREBOARD

## AFN-TV &amp; Radio

## Tuesday

**AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.**—Figure skating: Smart One Stars America (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.**—Horse racing: Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.**—Golf: The Tour Championship Preview Show (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.**—Auto racing: NHRA Las Vegas Nationals, final round (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.**—NFL: Miami at N.Y. Jets (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.**—College football: Bowling Green at Nebraska (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.**—NFL: Miami at N.Y. Jets (dtd).

## Wednesday

**AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.**—NBA: Houston at Detroit (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.**—NBA: Denver at L.A. Lakers (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.**—NBA: Sacramento at Detroit (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.**—College football: Toledo at Ohio State (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.**—Golf: The Tour Championship Preview Show (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.**—NBA: Houston at Detroit (dtd).

**AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m.**—NBA: Denver at L.A. Lakers (dtd).

All times Central European Time; dtd indicates delayed broadcast. All times subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit [www.afn.net](http://www.afn.net) for more information.

## Pro basketball

## NBA

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

**Central Division**

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

**Northeast Division**

**Pacific Division**

**Tuesday's games**

**Wednesday's games**

**Thursday's games**

**College football**

## AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with conference, record, wins, losses, ties, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern Cal (56)	6-0	1,516	1
2. Oklahoma (5)	6-0	1,489	2
3. Auburn (1)	6-0	1,507	3
4. Wisconsin (5)	6-0	1,362	4
5. Wisconsin (5)	6-0	1,359	6
6. Georgia (1)	6-0	1,212	9
7. Utah (1)	6-0	1,212	9
8. Tennessee (5)	6-0	1,132	11
9. Michigan (5)	6-0	1,103	4
10. Miami (1)	6-0	1,103	4

11. Florida (2)	6-1	815	13
12. Florida (2)	6-2	803	5
13. Texas (2)	6-2	803	14
14. West Virginia (1)	7-1	754	15
15. Ohio State (1)	6-0	695	18
17. LSU (1)	6-2	557	19
18. Oklahoma (5)	6-2	515	22
19. Oklahoma (5)	6-2	469	20
20. Southern Miss (1)	6-2	409	23
21. Southern Miss (1)	6-1	209	25
22. Texas Tech (1)	6-1	209	25
23. Arizona (5)	6-2	189	20
24. Baylor College (1)	6-2	189	20
25. UTEP (1)	6-2	68	—

## USA Today/ESPN Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The USA Today-ESPN college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, points through Oct. 30, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern California (52)	6-0	1,516	1
2. Oklahoma (8)	6-0	1,489	2
3. Auburn (1)	6-0	1,409	4
4. Wisconsin (6)	6-0	1,262	6
5. Georgia (1)	7-1	1,221	7
6. California (1)	6-1	1,200	8
7. Michigan (1)	6-1	1,021	10
8. Utah (1)	6-0	1,007	10
9. Tennessee (1)	6-1	979	3
10. Tennessee (1)	6-1	979	3
11. West Virginia (1)	7-1	784	13
12. Ohio State (1)	6-0	783	14
13. Virginia (1)	6-1	743	14
14. Georgia (1)	6-0	704	16
15. Louisville (1)	6-1	681	16
16. Virginia Tech (1)	6-2	503	22
17. Virginia Tech (1)	6-2	503	22
18. Oklahoma State (1)	6-2	321	20
19. Texas (1)	6-1	239	25
20. Southern Mississippi (1)	6-1	239	25
21. Arizona State (1)	6-2	144	21
22. Boston College (1)	6-2	144	21
23. Boston College (1)	6-2	144	21

## Auto racing

19. Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 318.

20. Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 296.

21. Elliott Stryker, Ford, 250.

22. Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 288.

23. Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 255.

24. Todd Bodine, Dodge, 222.

25. Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 220.

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30. (34) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 318.

31. (20) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 318.

32. (30) Travis Kvieci, Dodge, 317.

33. (6) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 311.

34. (10) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 299.

35. (6) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 296.

36. (10) Elliott Stryker, Ford, 250.

37. (10) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 288.

38. (10) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 255.

39. (10) Todd Bodine, Dodge, 222.

40. (10) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 220.

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Lee Van Zant, 393,750

Kevin Van Zant, 393,750

Ray Knight, 354,147

Tom Carter, 393,750

Ken Kesler, 393,750

Bob Carter, 393,750

Shaun Micheel, 340,500

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# Auburn moves up in BCS standings

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

Auburn moved into third place in the Bowl Championship Series on Monday while Southern California and Oklahoma held firmly to the top two spots.

The Tigers had been in fourth place in the first two BCS standings, but they took advantage of Miami's upset loss on Saturday to creep closer to the front-runners.

California moved up four spots to fourth, and is followed by Wisconsin and Utah.

Miami and Florida State, which was also upset on the road Saturday, fell out of the BCS top five for the first time this season.

The top two teams in the BCS standings after the regular season will meet in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

USC, which has been in first place since the initial BCS standings three weeks ago, has a grade of 9.095. The Trojans are No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 and the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll. They are also tied with Oklahoma for the best computer ranking this week.

The Sooners, No. 2 in both polls all season, have a grade of .9648.

Auburn's grade is .9238, placing third in each poll and the computer rankings.

The AP media poll and coaches poll each count for one-third of a team's BCS grade. Total points received in the polls are taken into account. A compilation of six computer rankings make up the other third of a grade, with the highest and lowest computer rankings for each team thrown out.

There are six unbeaten teams in Division I-A — USC, Oklahoma, Auburn, Wisconsin, Utah and Boise State.

Auburn's BCS ranking is the highest in school history, but the Tigers may not have their national title hopes in their own hands.

Even if they finish the season unbeaten with a victory in the Southeastern Conference championship game, the Tigers might need a loss by either USC or Oklahoma to reach the Orange Bowl.

A difficult remaining schedule could work in Auburn's favor, if the Tigers can survive it. They're off this week before playing Georgia (ninth in the BCS) at home on Nov. 13; at Alabama on the No. 20; and the SEC title game against either Georgia or Oklahoma (eighth in the BCS) on Dec. 4.



Utah quarterback Alex Smith drags San Diego State's Heath Farwell on Saturday. The No. 6 Utes are trying to earn a BCS bowl bid.

A separate strength of schedule component was removed from the BCS standings this season, but the computer rankings still take schedule strength into account, as do most poll voters.

Utah, from the Mountain West

Conference, could become the first team from a mid-major league to earn a bid to one of the four BCS games by finishing in the top six.

The Utes have a grade of .7429. Texas (.7370) is seventh.

# Fla. teams tumble in AP Top 25

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

Miami and Florida State tumbled in The Associated Press poll on Sunday, falling out of the top 10 after being upset on the road.

The Hurricanes' first loss of the season, a 31-28 defeat at North Carolina, dropped them seven spots to No. 11 in the media poll. They were one of five ranked teams to lose on the road to unranked opponents Saturday.

The Seminoles lost 20-17 at Maryland to snap a six-game winning streak. They fell eight spots to No. 13.

Southern California is No. 1 and Oklahoma is No. 2 for the 10th straight poll. Texas-El Paso is No. 25 as coach Mike Price has the Miners in the rankings for the first time in their history.

USC received 56 first-place votes and 1,616 points after a 42-12 victory at Washington State. The Sooners got eight first-place votes, five less than last week, and 1,556 points after squeaking by Oklahoma State 38-35 on Saturday.

The Sooners are back on the road next week at Texas A&M.

"It is another big game and an important game in the Big 12," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said.

Texas A&M was upset 35-34 on overtime to Baylor and fell six spots to No. 22.

No. 3 Auburn (8-0) received a first-place vote. California moved up three spots to No. 4, its highest ranking since 1952, and Wisconsin (8-0) is No. 5.

Rounding out the first 10 are Texas, Utah, Georgia, Tennessee and Michigan.

The top five teams in the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll are Auburn, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Wisconsin and Georgia.

In the AP poll, No. 12 Virginia is right behind Miami and in front of Florida State.

No. 14 is Louisville, followed by West Virginia, unbeaten Boise State, LSU, Virginia Tech, Oklahoma State and Iowa.

Joining Texas A&M and UTEP in the final five are No. 21 Southern Mississippi, No. 23 Arizona State and No. 24 Boston College, which is making its season debut in the rankings.

Price's Miners (6-2) are in the midst of one of the best turnarounds of the season. They clinched just their second winning season in the last 16 years with a 38-10 win over San Jose State and matched their victory total for the three previous seasons combined.

Falling out of the rankings was Purdue, which lost its third straight game, 13-10 at Northwestern. The Boilermakers were No. 5 just three weeks ago.

Minnesota also dropped out after losing 30-21 at Indiana.

# As losses pile up, so do questions for Paterno

Maybe it's just a coincidence that the toughest stretch of Joe Paterno's career arrives as the hourglass is about to be about to turn over on his 78th year.

Or maybe not.

After just one losing season in his first 34 at Penn State, Paterno was guaranteed his fourth in the last five following a 21-10 beating Saturday at Ohio State.

During that run, the Nittany Lions have lost not just their teeth, but their aura. By now, it's fair to ask whether they're likely to regain either as long as Paterno remains in charge.

Last season, skeptics doubted his play-calling and clock-management skills, as well as whether

a coach who defined the term "old school" could maintain discipline on a squad filled out by the "me-first" generation. Despite a 3-9 finish, Penn State's administration gave him a four-year contract extension, hoping to soothe critics as well as recruits by making it clear that JoePa would be around for a while. Already the deal has had the opposite effect.

Paterno keeps saying, "We're not that far off," but there is nothing to substantiate that and no one who has the coach's ear seems inclined to pass the message along. It's increasingly apparent that Paterno, for tonight at least, is not enough to be competitive in the Big Ten, can win on the road and can no longer take anybody in the conference for granted.

On top of that, Paterno hasn't proven that he can compete with the league's "Big Two," Michigan and Ohio State, for tonight at least, on a regular basis and even whether he can still develop the talent he does have.

Playing at home 10 days ago, Penn State

managed just two safeties in a 6-4 loss to Iowa, and one of those was a gift. In the Ohio State game, the Buckeyes ran a total of six plays and netted just 12 yards in the first quarter, but led 14-0. What tied those two latest losses together was the performance of quarterback Michael Robinson, who filled in for injured starter Zack Mills and closed out the Iowa game with two interceptions and a fumble on the final three plays, then began the Ohio State game by throwing two interceptions in his first three pass attempts.

The point is not to blame Robinson, who, after all, takes most of his snaps in practice as a wide receiver and running back, was coming back from a severe neck injury, and found himself playing behind the same porous offensive line that couldn't protect Mills from suffering a concussion in the Iowa game. The point is that Robinson probably shouldn't have been playing QB in the first place, a fact that Paterno is either too blind or stubborn to acknowledge.

A few weeks ago, even as the offensive problems continued to mount — Penn State averaged fewer than seven points per game in five losses under Mills — Paterno insisted that had Robinson been playing, the Nittany Lions would have beaten Wisconsin, Minnesota and Purdue.

Asked what evidence that was based on, the coach simply said, "I have coached great football players for 55 years. If I tell you that Michael Robinson is one of the best football players I have ever coached and one of the best in the country, don't question me."

And just last week, when the available evidence on Robinson suggested otherwise, and the Nittany Lions' sorry record practically begged for freshman Anthony Morelli to get his shot, Paterno insisted the youngster wasn't adequate to replace Mills to face Ohio State.

When a writer asked, "Why not?" Paterno replied, "He's not adequately prepared."

Asked whether Morelli knew the plays, Pa-



Ohio State coach Jim Tressell and Penn State coach Joe Paterno shake hands after Ohio State beat Penn State, 21-10, Saturday.

terno said again, "He's not adequately prepared."

The troubling part, beyond Paterno's obstinacy, is that his son, Jay, happens to be Penn State's quarterbacks coach. The Nittany Lions have three games left against Northwestern, Indiana and Michigan State, and rather than worry about winning those, it would serve the program better to find out as soon as possible if Jay Paterno can make certain that Morelli is "adequately prepared" to face the future.

After all, it's one thing for JoePa, who practically built the program from scratch, won two national championships and personally donated \$4 million, to feel a sense of entitlement. It's quite another when his kid starts feeling the same way.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

Jim Litke



# Hurricanes finding other goals to pursue

## Disappointed Miami likely out of title race

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Optimism comes easily to Larry Coker, considering his teams rarely lose.

Miami's stunning 31-28 loss at North Carolina on Saturday night might have knocked the Hurricanes out of the national championship picture, ended a 10-game winning streak and was only the fourth loss in Coker's 45 games since taking over as head coach.

No matter how he tried Sunday, Coker couldn't mask some disappointment. Still, he insisted the Hurricanes — who are in a three-way tie atop the Atlantic Coast Conference and play Clemson at home Saturday — have plenty of goals worth pursuing.

"We've certainly got a lot to play for," Coker said. "It's more about us than it is a national title. It's more about us even than Clemson. We've got to get our ship righted, our ducks in a row, all the clichés you can say. It's more about us than anybody else."

And although North Carolina deserves plenty of credit for not being intimidated by big, bad Miami — which entered the game ranked No. 4, but dropped to 11th in Sunday's AP Top 25 poll — the Hurricanes (6-1) lost the game because its defense has become, well, offensive.

North Carolina entered Saturday's game with the nation's second-worst defense, but the Tar Heels made Miami's defense look second-rate. Miami yielded 545 yards and

30 first downs, plus couldn't stop North Carolina's 65-yard march that set up Connor Barth's winning 42-yard field goal as time expired.

Everything the Tar Heels tried against Miami's defense worked.

North Carolina ran for 279 yards and passed for 266 more against a defensive unit that, three games ago, was ranked among the nation's best.

Not anymore.

"We weren't able to take away one side of their offense," Coker said. "They could run the ball and pass the ball."

Brock Berlin and the offense bailed out Miami's defense against Louisville and North Carolina State, games where the Hurricanes allowed 507 and 440 yards, respectively. But against North Carolina, 338 yards passing from Berlin, 28 points and no turnovers by the offense still weren't enough.

"I don't know what we're supposed to feel right now," safety Brandon Meriweather said after Saturday's game. "I'm not used to losing."

If there is some consolation right now for the Hurricanes, it's this: Win out, and they'll be back in a Bowl Championship Series game for the fifth straight year, this time as ACC champions.

Five teams are separated by a half-game in the ACC race, with Miami, Virginia and Virginia Tech all sharing first place with 3-1 league marks. Miami is at Virginia on Nov. 13, and ends the regular season at home against the Hokies Dec. 4.



MIAMI HERALD/KRT

Miami defenders Tavares Gooden and Greg Threat make the stop against UNC's Jesse Holley. Miami gave up 545 yards and 30 first downs to the Tar Heels on Saturday.

"We're a resilient bunch, we're a tough bunch, we know there's a lot of season left and we've got some tough football games

left," Coker said. "That's a little bit of the beauty of college football. We do have some more opportunities."

## Stingy D propels Cal to historic rank

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — A superb quarterback, a dominant running game and an inventive offensive scheme can take a team only so far.

California reached two fantastic defensive efforts to reach its highest ranking in 52 years.

The Golden Bears (6-1, 4-1 Pac-10) beat Arizona State 27-0 Saturday night to record consecutive shutouts for the first time since 1968. The next morning, they moved up three spots in the AP poll to No. 4 — their highest rank since Oct. 20, 1952.

Cal's remarkable three-year turnaround was led by coach Jeff Tedford's offense, which captured the nation's attention during week after week of high-scoring performances. Tedford's club led the nation in total offense last week before dropping to fourth with 492.4 yards per game.

But there's a new coaching star in Berkeley: Bob Gregory's defense has carried the Bears to new heights.

"We're really here to give all the credit to our defense for this one, because our offense struggled," said quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who passed for just 165 yards and two touchdowns against Arizona State. "We've got some injuries on offense, and it was great to see the D shutting them down."

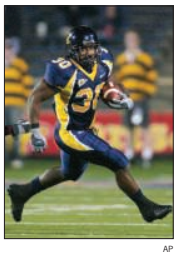
The Bears are 14th in the nation in total defense, allowing 282.2 yards per game. After shutting out Arizona 38-0 a week earlier, Cal clamped down on Andrew Walter and the Sun Devils, frustrating one of the West Coast's better teams into a terrible performance.

Tedford gives Gregory complete autonomy over the defense, and the unit struggled at times during the last two years while the coaches recruited players good enough to compete with the Pac-10's best. Now that Cal's roster is teeming with talent, Gregory has all the tools he needs.

But Gregory, a former Washington State defensive back who still looks athletic enough to cover a wideout, has an extreme aversion to taking credit for his defense's accomplishments. He often seems to take praise of his game plan as an insult to his players.

"It's all effort by the guys," Gregory said. "There are no geniuses in coaching, guys. It's all about good players playing their fanfannies off. ... When we got close (to a shutout), I could hear those guys cheering each other, 'Keep it going, keep it going.'"

Arizona State couldn't reach Cal territory in the first half, managing just 123 total yards. After being held behind 13-0, the Sun Devils were forced to take risks — and backup cornerback Tim Mixon intercepted an ill-advised



California running back J.J. Arrington, turns the corner for some of his 188 yards against Arizona State on Saturday.

pass in the third quarter, returning it 58 yards for the score that started the blowout.

Gregory blitzed cautiously, relying on his defensive line and linebackers to keep Walter uncomfortable. It worked: Cal held Walter to 238 yards passing while sacking him five times.

Gregory credits the defense's improvements to the return of nine players who were new starters last season. Their familiarity with Gregory's scheme was obvious when Cal held top-ranked Southern California to 205 yards last month — but still lost 23-17, a result that still ranks the Bears.

"It feels good to be where we are, but then there's that little itching in the back of your mind that we could have beat USC, and then where would we be?" Riddle asked.

## Things could only get worse for Texas A&M

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Texas A&M can pretty much forget about the Big 12 South title, an improbable Bowl Championship Series berth or any momentum heading into its showdown against Oklahoma.

The Bad News Baylor Bears made sure of it.

Shawn Bell found Dominique Zeigler in the end zone for the winning 2-point conversion a play after they connected on a 12-yard touchdown pass in overtime, lifting Baylor to a 35-34 victory over Texas A&M on Saturday night.

The stunning finish was perhaps the perfect end to an improbable upset.

"I expected them to go for the 2-point conversion," Aggies coach Dennis Franchione said. "They ran that play excellently."

The Baylor players piled on top of each other in the corner of the end zone while students rushed the field, turning it up into a green and gold mush pit. They parted into the night long after the big win, pulling down the south gold post and carrying it up and out of Floyd Casey Stadium.

A&M players and fans watched the improbable scene in utter disbelief. The Aggies had won the last 13 games against their over-matched rival, including a 73-10 rout at College Station last year.

This was an upset 18 years in the making, and it couldn't have come at a worse time for Texas A&M (6-2, 4-1 Big 12).

The loss dropped the Aggies six spots in the AP poll to No. 22 and took a lot of the sizzle out of their matchup with No. 2 Oklahoma in College Station next Saturday. It would have been a battle of unbeaten teams in the Big 12 South.

"We can't sit around and hang our head on this loss," A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal said. "We've got to bounce back from this."

Aggies tailback Courtney Lewis had a puzzling explanation for the loss, given what A&M had at stake going into the game.

"They just wanted it more than we did," he said.

The Aggies had flirted with danger the week before against Colorado, pulling out a thrilling three-point win in overtime.

Their luck finally ran out at A&M, which had committed one turnover in the previous seven games, lost two fumbles, an interception and had a punt blocked.

McNeal committed his first two turnovers of the season in the loss with the interception and a fumble. He had been the only starting quarterback in Division I-A without an interception this season.

With regular season games left against the Sooners, Texas Tech and No. 6 Texas, things could easily get worse for A&M.

"We've got OU coming in next week," Appel said. "So we can't put and feel sorry for ourselves or go back and keep working to get better."

# A team victory

## Hendrick Motorsports returns to Victory Lane a week after team was rocked by a plane crash

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Jimmie Johnson pulled into Victory Lane, beneath three flags at half-staff. The pictures of 10 lost friends were splashed across the hood of the winning car, along with a gut-wrenching message: "Always In Our Hearts."

A day for celebrating. A day for remembering. A day for healing. Just one week after 10 people — many of them key members of Hendrick Motorsports — were killed in a plane crash, Johnson did his part to ease some of the pain by winning at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday.

Maybe the feeling lasted for only a few fleeting moments, but it sure was nice to smile again.

"Once I got in the car, I knew what I was supposed to do," Johnson said. "I honestly forgot about everything until I took the checkered flag."

*"Coming back to the race track, thinking of race cars, getting in the car was something that took my mind off what happened."*

**Jimmie Johnson**

Hendrick Motorsports driver

"Then everything went into slow motion."

Mark Martin's Ford dominated the Bus Pro Shops MBNA 500, but fate was on Johnson's side. He became the first driver in six years to win three straight races in a season, despite leading only 17 laps on the high-banked trioval.

Martin was out front for almost 70 percent of the laps — 227 out of 325 — only to be 0.293 seconds behind at the end. A couple of late yellow flags ruined his chances.

"The best car doesn't always win the race," Johnson said. "The No. 6 car, he was the best car. Circumstances at the end just didn't work out in their favor."

Neither Johnson nor Martin had to worry about seeing too many of their rivals in the rear-view mirror.

Seven of the 10 contenders for the Nextel Cup championship had major problems, including points leader Kurt Busch. He blew an engine on lap 52 and finished 42nd — beating only one other driver, little brother Kyle.

But there was enough misfortune to go around, ensuring that Kurt Busch remained on top of the standings.

Matt Kenseth, the defending Cup champion, blew an engine and was 41st. Elliott Siderer was 36th after a collision with a car in the pits ruined his steering. Jeff Gordon battled an ill-handling machine to 34th place.

Jeremy Mayfield cut a tire, scraped the wall and had to hustle thereafter just to get 26th. Pole sitter Ryan Newman was leading when a miscue in the pits doomed him to a finish of 17th, two laps down.

And, finally, Dale Earnhardt Jr. crashed out late in the race through his own carelessness. He was in position to seize the lead in the standings when he clipped Carl Edwards' car on the backstretch and slammed into the inside wall with just 15 laps to go. Junior's heavily damaged car couldn't finish, leaving him in 33rd for the second week in a row.

"I was just trying to win the race," Earnhardt said. "We could have gained a lot of points. That would have been nice."

Busch sensed that it wasn't going to be his day.

"I had a feeling in my stomach before the race," said Busch, who had not finished lower than sixth in the first six races of the Nextel Cup playoff. "It was just one of those gut feelings where you don't feel as confident as the week before."

Johnson jumped two places in



**Jimmie Johnson, left, is embraced by Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jeff Gordon in Victory Lane after winning Sunday's NASCAR race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. Johnson won a week after 10 people, most of them affiliated with the Hendrick team, were killed in a plane crash en route to last Sunday's race at Martinsville, Va.**

the standings to second — only 59 points behind Busch — and became the first driver with three straight victories in a season since teammate Gordon won four in a row on the way to the 1998 championship.

Johnson pulled his winning Chevrolet up to the flagstand, picking up the checkered banner. Then, with it flapping out the driver's side, he circled the 1.54-mile track going the wrong way, soaking up the cheers of everyone in

the crowd — even those wearing the colors of rival drivers such as Earnhardt.

"Typically, I would have been booed," Johnson said, managing a smile. "There's a lot of red up there. They don't like blue. That's cool. But all I could see today was people on the fence who were happy to see what took place."

When Johnson finally got to the winner's circle, he took a cell phone call from team owner Rick Hendrick, who'll be getting the checkered flag. Hendrick asked everyone on the team to wear their caps backward — a tribute to his late son's fashion sense.

"Rick always yelled at his son for wearing his hat backward," Johnson said, managing a smile.

Ricky Hendrick, who died in the crash, was being groomed to take over his father's team. Three other family members were killed, including John Hendrick, Rick's brother and the team president.

General manager Jeff Turner and chief engine builder Randy Dorton also died.

"Coming back to the race track, thinking of race cars, getting in the car was something that took my mind off what happened," said Johnson, who didn't learn of the crash until after his victory last Sunday at Martinsville. The plane slammed into a mountain while on its way to the race.

Johnson has salvaged his championship hopes, but he'll have plenty of competition over the final three races. Gordon, Martin and Earnhardt are all within 98 points of Busch, who only had one driver that close coming into Sunday.



**Dale Earnhardt Jr. was in position to take the lead in the Nextel Cup title chase when he crashed with 15 laps to go Sunday, finishing 33rd.**

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# Seahawks hold on to end skid

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Shaun Alexander certainly did his part to put the Seattle Seahawks back on track. Alexander gained 195 yards rushing on 32 carries and Matt Hasselbeck recovered from a dismal performance last weekend, throwing for 201 yards to lead the Seahawks to a 23-17 win over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday.

The Seahawks (4-3) broke a three-game losing streak, while the Panthers (1-6) lost their fifth straight.

Josh Brown kicked three field goals in the second half, connecting from 27, 45 and 22 yards to give the Seahawks a comfortable cushion. His final kick put Seattle up 23-10 with 5:42 remaining.

This win wasn't spectacular. The Seahawks didn't have a zig-zag punt return for a touchdown, nor a chest-thumping helmet-spinning play by a defender. But the substance was there in little ways that were missing during Seattle's skid.

Hasselbeck threw to tight end Itula Mili for a 17-yard gain on third-and-14 in the fourth quarter, and Alexander broke a 38-yard run in the second period and a 44-yarder in the fourth — showing the Seahawks made the plays they needed.

It was just as notable for what didn't happen. There was no fourth-quarter meltdown like the Seahawks had in a loss to St. Louis three weeks ago. And no comic ineptness on offense like in last week's stunning loss at Arizona.

Carolina was driving for a possible late score, but any chance of a rally was dimmed when Jake Delhomme threw an interception straight to Seattle's Marcus Truitt, who returned it 57 yards.

**Texans 20, Jaguars 6:** At Houston, the Texans (4-3) won for the fourth time in their past five games and are above .500 for the first time in franchise history this late in a season.

Demarcus Faggins returned Byron Leftwich's errant pass 42 yards for a score with 43 seconds left. David Carr went 26-for-34 for 276 yards and a touchdown and the Texans held Jacksonville (5-3) to 39 yards rushing.

Jaguars running back Fred Taylor left in the third quarter with a hip pointer.

**Packers 28, Redskins 14:** At Landover, Md., Brett Favre ig-



Redskins running back Clinton Portis heads for what appeared to be a go-ahead TD, but the play was called back because of a penalty.

nored a sprained throwing hand to complete 20 of 33 passes for 289 yards and a touchdown for Green Bay (4-4), extending his streak to 33 games with at least one TD pass in his 199th consecutive regular-season game.

The Packers won their third straight game.

The Redskins (2-5), trailing 20-14, thought they scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 43-yard reception by Clinton Portis with 2:35 to play. But the celebrations died quickly when the play was called back for an illegal-motion penalty on receiver James Thomas.

On the next play, Al Harris intercepted Mark Brunell's pass and Ahmad Green scored on an 11-yard run four plays later to seal the victory.

**Cowboys 31, Lions 21:** The passing and running of 40-year-old QB Vinny Testaverde keyed Dallas' victory at home. He had a 7-yard run on fourth-and-3 to set up a tying touchdown, then scrambled 3 yards for the go-ahead score to help the Cowboys (3-4) end a three-game losing streak.

Keyshawn Johnson, the only receiver in the lineup who'd ever caught a pass, had two TD receptions.

Joey Harrington was 19-for-32 for 255 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for 42 yards (4-3).

**Titans 27, Bengals 20:** Billy Volek replaced injured Steve McNair (chest) by throwing for two touchdowns and 210 yards for the Titans' first victory at home this season.

Gary Anderson kicked two

field goals, and Chris Brown ran for 147 yards, his best 100-yard performance this season.

The Titans (3-5) earned their ninth victory in 10 games against their old AFC Central foe Cincinnati (2-5), sacking Carson Palmer four times, batting down four passes behind the line and forcing him into an interception and a fumble.

**Bills 38, Cardinals 14:** At Orchard Park, N.Y., Willis McGahee ran for 102 yards and two touchdowns. In two starts this season, McGahee has rushed for more than 100 yards and led the Bills (2-5) to both of their victories.

The Cardinals (2-5) have lost 17 straight on the road, the worst current streak in the NFL, dating to a win at Carolina on Oct. 6, 2002.

**Bears 23, 49ers 13:** Nathan Vasher's stumbling interception and 71-yard return clinched Chicago's home victory.

Anthony Thomas replaced the injured Thomas Jones and ran for 95 yards on 25 carries for Chicago (2-5).

The Bears prevailed behind Vasher's interception of Ken Dorsey's throw and three field goals by Paul Edinger.

Chicago rookie Craig Krenzel made his first NFL start and Dorsey got the nod for the third time this season when 49ers starter Tim Rattay was a no-go because of an injury to his right forearm.

Krenzel and Dorsey had squared off in the national title game following the 2002 season when Krenzel led Ohio State past Dorsey and Miami in the Fiesta Bowl.

Gary Anderson kicked two

# Brees nearly perfect in Chargers' rout

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — In any other blowout, Philip Rivers might have gotten the chance to make his NFL debut. Not in this one. Even the rookie knew that Drew Brees deserved to finish the game he started.

Brees was practically perfect Sunday, throwing a career-high five touchdown passes and setting team records for passing efficiency in leading the surprising San Diego Chargers to a 42-14 rout of the sad-sack Oakland Raiders.

"It was fun," said Brees, who continued his remarkable turnaround from last year's nightmare. "It felt like we could run anything in our base offense, and we knew it was going to work. We had that confidence."

Brees completed his first eight passes to quiet the thousands of Raiders fans in the stadium, and finished 22-for-25 for 281 yards and no interceptions. He set team records with his 88-percent completion rate and 153.1 passer rating. The highest rating a quarterback can have is 158.3.

"Drew's on fire," star running back LaDainian Tomlinson said.

If Brees had played like this last year, the Chargers wouldn't have needed to spend a No. 1 pick and \$40 million on Rivers.

Brees is doing his best to keep Rivers on the sideline. And because this is the last year of his contract, he could present the front office with a dilemma if he keeps playing well.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer

planned to take Brees out in the final minutes, but said Rivers told him: "Coach, the way he is playing, let him finish."

The Chargers made Brees the scapegoat in an NFL-worst 4-12 season in 2003, a move that backfired when Rivers, obtained in a draft-day deal with the New York Giants for Eli Manning and a handful of picks, missed the first month of training camp in a contract holdout, allowing Brees to keep his job.

Brees said his motivation is to keep winning games and a championship, not to prove people wrong.

"I play for this team," he said. "Obviously I love the game and I feel we have something special. I want more than anything for it to keep going."

The Chargers are 5-3 at the season's midpoint and tied for the AFC West lead with Denver, which lost to Atlanta.

Brees has 14 touchdown passes against just three interceptions this year, compared to his 15 interceptions and 11 TDs last year.

His previous best for touchdown passes in a game was three, which he did three times.

He hit tight end Antonio Gates with scoring passes of 5 yards and 1 yard on consecutive drives in the third quarter to give the Chargers a 42-7 lead. The second scoring pass to Gates came on fourth down, and the former Kent State basketball star slipped the ball through the uprights.

"We all trust Drew," Gates said. "Right now, he's the captain of the ship. He's making this offense click."

# Curtains: Steelers cash in on Patriots' turnovers

CURTAINS, FROM BACK PAGE

Rather than Roethlisberger, it was the Patriots' Tom Brady who looked like the rookie, throwing two interceptions and losing a fumble in New England's first loss since a 20-17 defeat to Washington on Sept. 28, 2003.

"It's not weird at all to [lose], we knew it was a possibility every week," linebacker Teddy Bruschi said. "That's why we played so hard and prepared so hard every week. But a couple of things happened, a couple of mistakes ... and they were rolling."

Everything looked status quo early for the Patriots, who overcame Dillon's absence following two consecutive 100-yard games to drive for Adam Vinatieri's 43-yard field goal, the 15th straight game they've scored first.

After that, it fell apart. Roethlisberger hit Ward for 21 yards ahead of a perfectly thrown 47-yard scoring pass to a stretched-out Burress, who quickly shed backed Randall Gay two plays after he came in for the injured Law.

He [Gay] was a lame duck out there, so we just went right at him," Burress said.

It never got any better for the Patriots, playing here for the first time since upsetting Pittsburgh 24-17 in the AFC championship game in January 2002.

New England's next play, Brady fumbled after a hard hit from Joey Porter, leading to Roethlisberger's 4-yard pass to Burress and a 14-3 lead.

Just 16 seconds later, Brady, hit by Larry Foote and Kimmo Oelhoffen, threw the ball directly to Deshaun Townsend for a 39-yard interception return for a touchdown, and it was 21-3 almost before New England fans had put down their signs from Saturday's Red Sox victory parade.

"It was pretty obvious the Steelers were the better team," Belichick said. "They outcoached us, outplayed us, and we weren't good in any phase of the game. We didn't do much of anything right."

Duce Staley supported Roethlisberger by running for 125 yards in his fourth 100-yard game of the season, two more than the Steelers (6-10) had all last season.

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# Owens leaves calling card for Lewis & Co.

## Flamboyant wide receiver mocks linebacker after TD catch that clinched Eagles' victory

BY DAN GELSTON  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens' imitation wasn't really the sincerest form of flattery for Ray Lewis.

Owens mocked Lewis with some nifty footwork after catching an 11-yard touchdown pass in the undefeated Philadelphia Eagles' 15-10 victory over Baltimore on Sunday.

Owens, who angered Lewis and other Ravens when he spurned Baltimore and forced a trade to the Eagles in March, had eight catches for 101 yards. After breaking several tackles to score in the fourth quarter, Owens, known for his innovative celebrations, imitated the dance Lewis does when he's introduced before home games.

Owens said he studied tapes of the Baltimore linebacker doing his little dance from the Super Bowl.

"It was all fun. That's what I do," Owens said. "When I go out there and make a play, if I score, everyone knows I'm going to try to do something exciting."

"A lot of people don't like it."

Count Lewis among them.

"Don't be a coward and wait until you make one play to do something," Lewis said.

Lewis and Owens have exchanged verbal shots since the four-time Pro Bowl receiver refused to play for the Ravens after San Francisco initially traded him to Baltimore.

"I'm going to have fun with it," Owens said. "I'm pretty sure he'll get me somewhere down the road."

The dance was fun for Philadelphia, but didn't overshadow the big picture: With New England's loss to Pittsburgh, the Eagles are 7-0 for the first time in franchise history and are the lone undefeated team in the NFL.

"I'm just proud to be a part of it," Owens said.

The Ravens' offense, missing three Pro Bowl players, sure could have used Owens. The unit didn't score until Kyle Boller threw a 7-yard TD pass to Daniel Wilcox in the fourth quarter.

Baltimore (4-3) drove to Philadelphia's 48 in the final 2 minutes, but Boller's fourth-down pass was incomplete.

"We had a chance and that's the best part about it," Boller said.

Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb completed 18 of 33 passes for 219 yards and a touchdown, and also scrambled for 36 yards, setting up two field goals with his runs. David Akers converted kicks of 20, 41 and 43.

Leading 9-3, the Eagles got the ball at their 35 after Chester Taylor fumbled in the fourth quarter. Then, McNabb and Owens took over.

The two connected on passes of 15 and 11 yards, before hooking up for the score that made it 15-3.

Owens' celebration got more attention than his play.

Ravens safety Corey Fuller said he told Owens after the game that he was too good a player to let his TD antics overshadow his ability. Fuller said Owens had no response.

"How much more attention does he need to get?" Fuller said.

"He's got \$40 million. He's the number one guy here. How much more attention does he need? But it's easy to look good when you win."

Not all the Ravens were upset with Owens.

The always flashy Deion Sanders had a few words of advice for players — including his own teammates — who protest the



Philadelphia's Terrell Owens (81) slips past Baltimore safety Ed Reed, right, on his way to a 11-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter of Sunday's 15-10 victory over the Ravens.

post-TD celebrations. Don't let Owens score.

"I.D. hasn't done anything different than he did in San Francisco last year," Sanders said. "He's winning. He's a great player. Now you guys are really getting to see the best in him because he's winning. He's on a national stage and he's associated with a winner."

The Eagles know plenty about winning

this year, even when the offense isn't clicking. They settled for three field goals from Akers before Owens' score in the fourth quarter.

Eagles coach Andy Reid said his team was only getting started.

"It's a nice compliment to the guys and they've done a nice job, but we're not going to get hung up on all that," he said. "We're going to keep pushing."



Minnesota's Daunte Culpepper is harassed by New York Giants' Michael Strahan during Sunday's game.

# Giants' offense steals spotlight

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Will Allen and his New York Giants teammates were tired of hearing about the prolific Minnesota Vikings and Daunte Culpepper.

So they did something about it. The Giants intercepted two passes and shut out the vaunted Minnesota offense for nearly 51 minutes in a 34-13 victory on Sunday.

"Yeah, they've got a good defense, but we've got a good defense," said Allen, who had one of New York's interceptions.

Culpepper was 24-for-42 for 231 yards and one late touchdown, his 29th of the season.

"After hearing all week about his numbers this and his numbers that," Allen said, "we wanted to put a number on their team."

That's what the Giants did 21 ways seem to do to the Vikings.

After the game, Minnesota coach Mike Tice walked into the

interview room and announced the only good news of the afternoon: "The Giants are not on our schedule next year. Thank God."

Since a 41-0 loss in the NFC championship game in the 2000 season, the Vikings (5-2) haven't had much luck against New York. This was their third straight loss to the Giants — all at home.

In 2002, Culpepper was benched for the fourth quarter after going 9-for-20 for 91 yards against New York. Minnesota began last year with six victories before losing 29-17 to the Giants, beginning a downward spiral that included seven losses in the final 10 games.

"For some reason, we just have great performances here," said Giants tailback Tiki Barber, who ran 24 times for 101 yards and two short touchdowns.

Jeremy Shockey caught three passes for 60 yards, Kurt Warner went 13-for-21 for 144 yards and New York finally solved its red-zone struggles by scoring all

five times it reached the Minnesota 20 — including four TDs. Backup Mike Cook scored twice on short runs in the second half.

"We rebounded in the right way," said Barber, whose team surpassed last year's victory total a week after losing 28-13 to Detroit.

Minnesota star Randy Moss was in street clothes after half-time, going without a catch for the second straight game while a strained right hamstring kept him from running at full speed. Moss didn't aggravate the injury, but felt some tightness and the Vikings didn't want to risk it.

"We've got to find a new personality until Randy's healthy," Tice said.

Without him, the Vikings had their worst offensive performance of the season.

"Everything that could've went bad for us did," said Culpepper, whose 32 yards led Minnesota rushers.

Lance Johnstone had two of

Minnesota's five sacks, but the Vikings were down as the scoreless possessions added up. Rookie Mewelde Moore, who had 610 offensive yards in the last three games, was led to 29 yards on eight carries.

"I think we're a little spoiled," left tackle Bryant McKinnie said, "because we're used to putting up a lot of points."

Many of the Giants credited defensive coordinator Tim Lewis for their success. They were always in the right place, and — if Culpepper did complete a pass — the receiver was often hit hard.

"We practiced well, and the guys seemed confident we could come out here and win," defensive end Michael Strahan said.

Warner, and the rest of the New York offense, sure appreciated it.

"Here's a tremendous offense ... playing as well as anybody in the league, and the defense shut them down," Warner said. "It's very easily could've been a shut-out."

# Chiefs' dynamic offense knocks Colts flat

## Kansas City runs over Indianapolis 45-35 despite Manning's 5 TD passes

BY STEVE BREISENDEN

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas City quarterback Trent Green was careful not to get too excited about another strong performance.

"We are on a little bit of a roll, I'll admit that," said Green, still smarting from the Chiefs' 0-3 start. "Just a little bit."

Green certainly had it going in the right direction Sunday, throwing for 398 yards and three touchdowns in a 45-35 victory over Indianapolis. The Chiefs improved to 3-4 and have scored 101 points in their first consecutive victories of the season.

The Chiefs broke a seven-game losing streak against the Colts (4-3), who had beaten them five straight times at Arrowhead Stadium. They also handed Indianapolis its second consecutive loss, despite Peyton Manning's five touchdowns passes.

"We know we've won here before," Chiefs linebacker David Thornton said. "We know we can do it again — and to not play as well as we should was very disappointing."

It could have been worse for Indianapolis' defense.

The Chiefs might have broken 50 for the second straight week, but Kansas City's Priest Holmes lost a fumble at the Indianapolis 5



KANSAS CITY STAR/STAFF

**Colts punter Hunter Smith is tackled by the Chiefs' Eric Warfield during a fake punt in the first quarter of Kansas City's win, on Sunday. The two teams combined for 1,095 yards in the 45-35 Chiefs victory.**

and holder Steve Cheek dropped a snap on a field-goal attempt.

As it was, the Chiefs still outgained the Colts 590 yards to 505, the third-highest single-game yardage total in NFL history.

Holmes ran for 143 yards and three touchdowns — he has seven in two weeks — and tight end Tony Gonzalez had eight catches for 125 yards and two TDs.

That followed a 56-10 victory

over Atlanta last week in which Kansas City set an NFL record with eight rushing touchdowns.

"I'd like to believe this is who we are," Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said. "Are we going to do it every week? No."

Sunday's game also provided a measure of vindication for a Kansas City defense that didn't force a punt in a 38-31 AFC divisional playoff loss to the Colts in January.

The Chiefs stuffed a fake punt attempt on Indianapolis' first drive and came up with a decisive takeaway when Greg Wesley intercepted Manning's poorly thrown pass in the end zone with just under 2 minutes left and returned it 65 yards to seal the win.

"We didn't want it to have to happen that way," Wesley said.

"But they've got a powerful offense. We knew that coming in.

We knew it wasn't going to be easy — but the only thing that matters is that 'W.'"

The Colts took a 7-0 lead on Manning's 52-yard pass to Marvin Harrison, but the Chiefs answered with Green's 21-yard scoring pass to Gonzalez later in the first quarter and a 7-yard TD throw to Johnnie Morton early in the second.

Holmes ran 21 yards on a draw play for a 21-7 lead, but Manning's 5-yard pass to Marcus Pollard made it 21-14 before the Chiefs closed the half with Holmes' 11-yard run and Lawrence Tynes' 32-yard field goal to go up 31-14.

Manning pulled the Colts to 31-28 by the end of the third on TD passes of 22 yards to Harrison and 41 yards to Reggie Wayne, but Holmes scored from inches out with just under 13 minutes left for a 38-28 lead.

Manning's 6-yard TD pass to Wayne on fourth down got Indianapolis to 38-35 with just under 5½ minutes left, but Green was 18-25 on the Chiefs' ensuing drive, equipping it with a 14-yard TD pass to Gonzalez for a 45-35 lead.

Green also completed 14 straight passes in the first half, one short of Dawson's team record from 1967.

"That's the best he's played all year," Gonzalez said.

## Mile-High air revives Vick, Falcons' defense

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

DENVER — While Jake Plummer was setting records in the fourth quarter, Michael Vick was standing on the sideline savoring a surprisingly easy victory.

Vick accounted for 367 yards of offense Sunday to help the Atlanta Falcons to a 41-28 victory over the Denver Broncos, who got 499 yards passing from Plummer — much of it compiled in his vain attempt to play catch-up.

"I don't care what the numbers are," Plummer said. "We lost the game."

The 499 yards were Plummer's career high, the best mark in the NFL this season and a franchise record. Rod Smith had a career-high 208 yards receiving and an 80-yard touchdown, one of four Plummer threw. The Broncos also set a franchise record with 567 yards of offense.

But none of it was nearly enough to overcome Plummer's three interceptions and the stellar performance from Vick.

"He's something very special and I've never seen him play like that," Denver defensive lineman Luther Ellis said. "That's definitely the best game of the year, and maybe his career."

Vick threw two touchdown passes to Peerce Lewis and had 252 yards passing and 115 rushing — both season highs.

On almost every level, it was quite a contrast from last week for the Falcons (6-2), who gave up an NFL-record eight rushing touchdowns in a 56-10 loss in Kansas City.

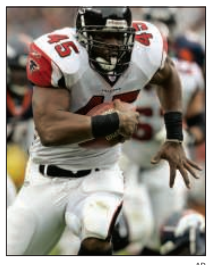
"This week we had the mind-set that we were going to stay focused and learn from the film and put it behind us," linebacker Keith Brooking said. "We did that today. We fought back and won convincingly, and that just shows the heart we have on this club."

The Broncos (5-3), meanwhile, have more questions to answer after being upset for the second straight week. Last Monday night, it was a 23-10 loss at Cincinnati. And then, this.

"It's very demoralizing for a team," said tailback Reuben Droughns, who was held to 49 yards rushing. "Any time you have back-to-back losses, it's very embarrassing."

At least they don't have any more games against Vick, who got things going early by turning what looked like a sure loss into a 44-yard run down the middle of the field, a play that "kind of set the tempo," Broncos cornerback Kelly Herndon said.

Atlanta gained 467 yards against a defense allowing less than 240 a game. Vick, who went 18-for-24 for a passer rating of 136.1, led the Falcons to scores on six of their first nine possessions, the stat would have been better if not for a missed field goal and a lost fumble in Denver territory.



Atlanta's T.J. Duckett breaks into the open on a 21-yard touchdown run against the Denver Broncos on Sunday.

## Sunday's NFL stars:

### Quarterbacks

■ Peyton Manning, Colts, passed for 472 yards and five touchdowns, the fifth five-TD performance of his career, in a 45-35 loss to Kansas City. Trent Green, Chiefs, threw for 398 yards and three scores.

■ Drew Brees, Chargers, threw a career-high five touchdown passes and set the team single-game record for pass efficiency by going 22-for-25. 88 percent, for 285 yards in a 42-14 romp over Oakland.

■ Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers, upset his personal winning streak to 18 with a 34-20 victory over New England. He won his final 13 at Miami of Ohio last season following an opening-game loss, and now NFL is only the second rookie quarterback since the 1970 merger to win his first NFL game. He was 18-for-24 for 196 yards and no interceptions and is 39-49 in his last two games.

■ Michael Vick, Falcons, threw two touchdown passes to Peerce Lewis and accounted for 367 yards of offense in a



AP photos

41-28 win at Denver. Vick finished with season high 417 yards rushing and 252 passing, going 18-for-24.

■ Jake Plummer, Broncos, threw for a Denver record 499 yards, a career high and the best mark in the league this year. But he also had three interceptions. He went 31-for-55 with four touchdown passes in the loss to Atlanta.

### Receivers

■ Terrell Owens, Eagles, had eight catches for 101 yards and the winning touchdown in a 17-16 victory over the Redskins. After three several tackles to score in the fourth quarter, Owens, known for his innovative celebrations, imitated the dance Baltimore's Ray Lewis does in the end zone before his game-winning catch.

■ Rod Smith, Broncos, had nine receptions for 208 yards and an 80-yard TD in a 41-28 loss to Atlanta.

■ Reggie Brown and Marvin Harrison, Colts, each had 119 yards and two touchdowns in a 45-35 loss at Kansas City. Chiefs TE Tony Gonzalez had eight catches for 125 yards and two TDs.

■ Munsif Muhammad, Panthers, had eight catches for 106 yards and two touchdowns in a

23-17 loss at Seattle.

■ Tim Lincecum, Patriots, made eight catches for 101 yards and two touchdowns in a 34-30 loss at Pittsburgh.

### Running Backs

■ Chris Brown, Browns, had 147 yards, his fifth 100-yard performance this season, and a touchdown in a 20-17 win over Cincinnati. ■ Tiki Barber, Giants, the league leader in yards, had 100 yards and two touchdowns in a 34-13 win over the Redskins.

■ Willis McGahee, Bills, ran for 102 yards and a score in a 20-17 win over the Patriots. In two starts this season, McGahee has scored in both games. He was the first to do so in both of their victories. McGahee's two scores were on 28 and 30-yard runs. The Browns' rushing in 10 games for Buffalo.

■ Reggie Brown, Patriots, rushed in an early fumble to finish with 143 yards rushing and a 45-35 win over Indianapolis.

■ Reggie Brown, Patriots, rushed in an early fumble to finish with 143 yards rushing and a 45-35 win over Indianapolis.



## SPORTS



Auburn moves up, but USC, Oklahoma still entrenched atop rankings, Page 29

# It's Steel Curtains for Patriots' streak

## Roethlisberger ends New England's run at 21

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The New England Patriots are no longer perfect, all because of a rookie quarterback who still is.

Ben Roethlisberger, who doesn't know what it's like to lose an NFL game, drove the Steelers to four scores after uncharacteristic New England turnovers and Pittsburgh ended the Patriots' two long winning streaks with a remarkably easy 34-20 victory Sunday.

The Patriots (6-1) had won 21 straight counting the playoffs and a league-record 18 in a row in the regular season, but were all but out of this one after Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to Plaxico Burress during a 21-point Steelers first quarter.

Maybe all this winning was too much to ask of Boston-area teams.

With running back Corey Dillon (thigh) sitting out and Pro Bowl cornerback Ty Law (foot) sidelined for all but a few plays, the Patriots' record run ended only four days after the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

"It was never about the streak, that was never part of our preparation," linebacker Mike Vrabel said. "It wasn't this week against the Steelers, either — we just didn't play well enough to win, that's it."

As a rookie — taking on New England's defensive maelstrom, coach Bill Belichick, and the Patriots' unpredictable defenses. Instead, Roethlisberger ran his own winning streak to 18 — his last 13 games at Miami of Ohio and his



Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Plaxico Burress celebrates a touchdown against the New England Patriots in the first quarter on Sunday.

first five in the NFL.

"I heard those experts talking on TV that he can't beat a Bill Belichick defense," Burress said. "But they're finding out around the league."

Only former Steelers quarterback Mike Kruczek's 6-0 start while subbing for the injured Terry Bradshaw in 1976 is longer

than Roethlisberger's since the 1970 NFL merger. But Kruczek never threw a TD pass in 10 games that season.

Roethlisberger already has nine scoring passes in what is fast becoming the best season by an NFL rookie QB since Dan Marino threw 20 touchdown passes and only six interceptions in 11 games

for the 1983 Dolphins.

"It's only been five games," Roethlisberger said. "We keep saying it over and over again, let's not get too excited."

His teammates certainly are excited, with the Steelers (6-1) off to their best start since their 1978 team was 7-0. Roethlisberger was 18-for-24 for 196 yards and no in-

terceptions Sunday and is 39-for-49 in his past two games.

"You can't describe his effort," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "He's 5-0, and he's earning a lot of respect on this team. The guys on this team are fighting hard for him."

SEE CURTAINS ON PAGE 33



**Vick's woes disappear in Denver's thin air; Owens scores winning TD to keep Eagles unbeaten**

Pages 34-35



**Johnson earns Hendrick team an emotional win in Atlanta**

Page 31



**Singh tops \$10M with ninth victory of season** Page 27

